Wednesday, November 21, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 346 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Burma problem spoils historic Asean summit

SINGAPORE—SOUTHEAST ASIAN leaders yesterday signed a historic charter that aims to create an economic bloc encompassing a half-billion people and integrate the region as a legal organization bound by one set of rules. But controversy over Burma (Myanmar) spoiled the party of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Burma's Prime Minis-

BURMA/ A20

Pacquiao to challenge champ Diaz

SPORTS / A27

Learning the world of life in 12 months in youth education program

LIFESTYLE / C3

20th Philippine Ad Congress opens today in Subic

SPECIAL PROJECT/ H1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

UN-backed court probes Khmer Rouge terror reign

PHNOM PENH—IN A HISTORIC MOMENT for Cambodia, the head of the Khmer Rouge's largest and most notorious torture center took the stand on Tuesday in the first public session of the long-delayed UN-backed tribunal probing the regime's reign of terror in the 1970s.

The 1975-79 Khmer Rouge regime was

UN-BACKED/ A19

WHAT TO DO WITH A PROBLEM LIKE BURMA? Asean leaders do not quite agree but at the end of their 13th summit in Singapore on Monday, they link hands now bound by a landmark charter to integrate the region. From left, Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Laos' President Choummaly Sayasone, Malaysia's Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Philippines' President Macapagal-Arroyo, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Thailand's Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, Burma's Prime Minister Thein Sein, Vietnam's President Nguyen Minh Triet, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen. REUTERS

Palace blames World Bank

Says $232-M loan deferment due to internal row

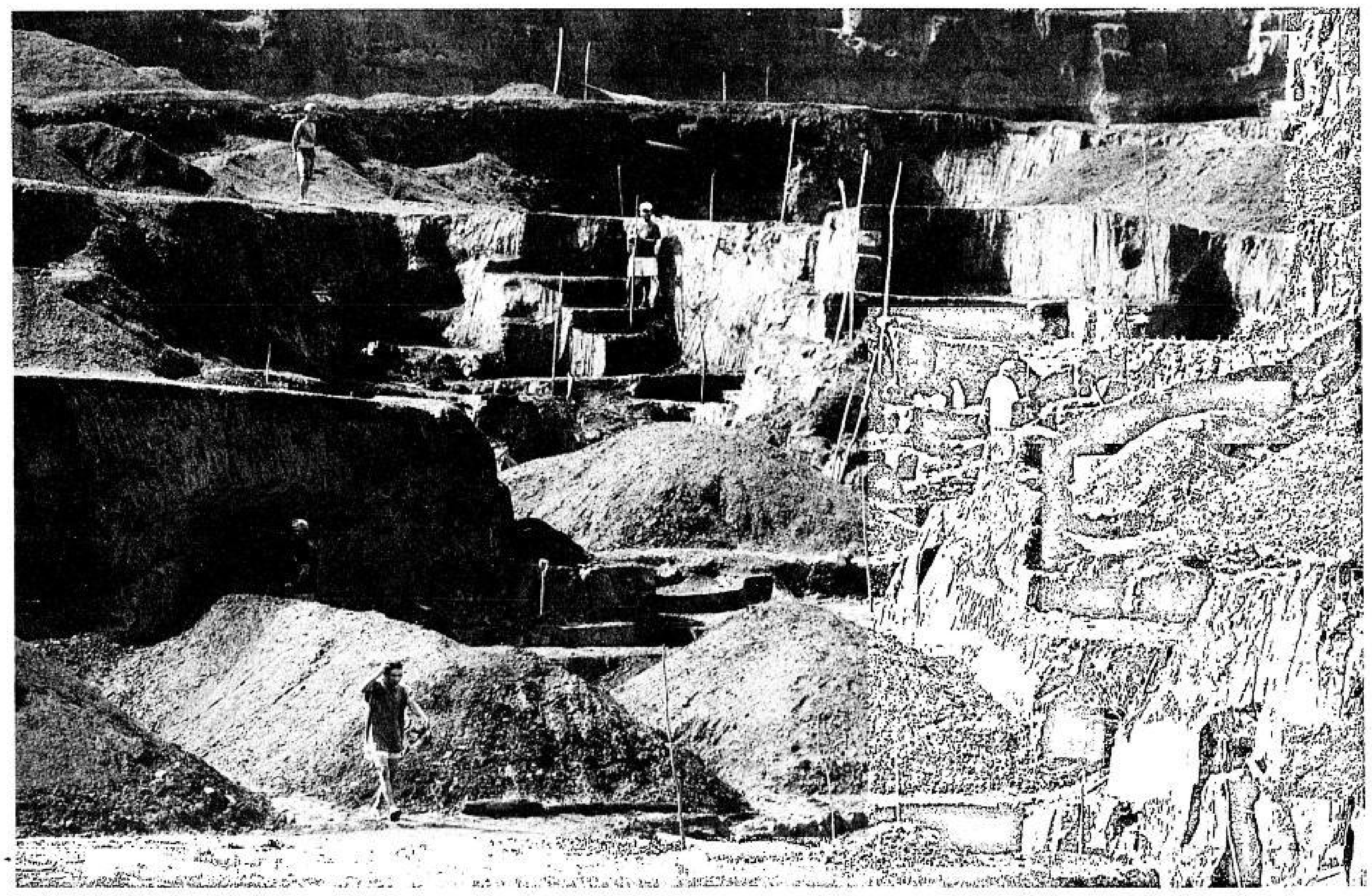
By Michael Lim Ubac, Doris C. Dumlao and Margaux C. Ortiz

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SOUGHT TO TEMPER THE allegations of corruption that had caused the World Bank to suspend the release of a $232-million soft loan intended to fund Philippine road projects, saying it was an "internal row" in the multilateral agency that had caused the deferment.

Speaking at a press conference, Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde said "policy differences" among top World Bank officials was the plausible explanation for the deferred release of the loan that was to fund three road contracts.

"The contracts might have become collateral damage," Remonde said. "We were just caught in an internal row among the World Bank staff. We were caught up in the changes in the [agency] so this suspension is more a

PALACE/ A12



THE PITS. At the sight of photographers who visited the area recently, men stopped work at an open pit mine located in the heart of Homonhon Island, Eastern Samar, at a Filipino-owned chromite mining firm named Heritage Mining Corp. Lush vegetation, residents said wistfully, used to blanket the area. Carved out by heavy machinery, two huge craters about 30 hectares in diameter are certain to stun environmentalists, who could not say enough during the Asean summit on the importance of increasing forest cover in the region. ERIK ARAZAS

Senators warn of looming loan crisis

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A LOAN CRISIS IS LOOMING AS A RESULT of the deferment of a World Bank loan for road projects, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned yesterday.

Pimentel said the deferment of the $232-million loan could crimp the Philippines' ability to access more foreign loans.

"If they cannot trust [President] Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with a huge amount, why should they trust her with small amounts? [A loan crisis] is inevitable under the circumstances. We have suffered from a loan crisis before, but it was more because of overborrowing, not corruption," Pimentel said.

Sen. Manuel Roxas described the loan deferment as "a huge national embarrassment."

Roxas said he would support the World Bank's recommendation for the

SENATORS/ A12

Suspect leads cops to another bomb in Malate

By Alcuin Papa, Nikko Dizon and Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE INVESTIGATORS WORKING on leads provided by three detained suspects are tracking down members of a bomb squad that was to carry out a "Plan B" in the plot to assassinate Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar who was killed in the Batasang Pambansa bombing last week.

Last night at around 9:30, police from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region raided a house on Avella Street in Malate, Manila, where they found a suspected explosive device buried under the floor.

Police said the bomb was in a container of water to prevent it from ex-

SUSPECT/ A6

Now, it's JDV facing probes in Senate, House

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christian V. Esguerra

THE SENATE WAS ASKED YESTERDAY to reopen its investigation of the $503-million North Luzon Railways (NorthRail) project, allegedly brokered by Speaker Jose de Venecia, for being "financially onerous."

De Venecia is also being directed by the House committee on ethics to formally reply to allegations raised in a complaint by lawyer Roel Pulido that his son and namesake's firm had been awarded congressional franchises during the Speaker's tenure. The committee yesterday ruled that the complaint "is valid in form and content."

In filing Resolution No. 210, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the deal was "far worse" than the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) contract which the Speaker's son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, had exposed as ridden with corruption and bribery.

"Speaker De Venecia should not investigate himself on his role in the NorthRail deal. Nothing will come out of it. I suggest that he cooperate with the Senate investigation, submit docu-

NOW IT'S/ A6

JDV reported slay plot to GMA, lawyer tells Senate

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA TOOK the alleged assassination plot against him and his son by Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza so seriously that he informed President Macapagal-Arroyo about it, De Venecia's lawyer told a Senate hearing yesterday.

Lawyer Raul Lambino gave testimony before the Senate blue ribbon committee investigating the aborted $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China that supported a previous statement by the Speaker's son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, on the death threat.

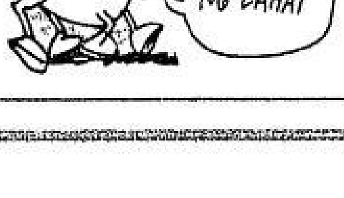
Young De Venecia's previous testimony that the deal with China's ZTE Corp. to digitally wire the nation's bureaucracy was overpriced and riddled with bribery forced the resignation of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos.

The President later scrapped the contract which was signed by Mendoza, also the communications secretary.

Lambino said that on Oct. 19, re-

JDV REPORTED/ A6

Prison break to combat climate change


KELANGAN NG KALIKASAN ANG TULONG NG LAHAT

By Allison W. Lopez

A GROUP OF PRISONERS WILL GET OUT of jail on Thursday to plant trees at the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila.

The jailbirds have joined the tree-planting project organized by Winner Foundation, the park's designated caretaker.

PRISON/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Palawan will experience stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. Calamian Group and Cuyo Island will have rains and gusty winds and its coastal waters will be moderate to rough. Southern Luzon, rest of Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Bicol and Eastern Visayas which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/11/20/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/nation

SILA NGA ANG MATUTONG MABUHAY SA SINKUWENTA SENTIMOS KADA ARAW!

EZ2
5 20

SIX DIGIT
4 4 7 2 5 6
(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
1 1 9 | 9 5 0

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
6 15 20 21 40 41
P4,922,535.60

Hungry getting little gov't help

SWS survey says only 1 percent of starving families receive assistance

By Kate V. Pedroso
Inquirer Research

ONLY 1 PERCENT OF OVER 725,000 families who experienced severe hunger in the past three months said they received help from the government, according to the latest survey by the Social Weather Stations.

At the same time, some 57 percent or 2.2 million families who experienced hunger at least once in the past quarter said they did not receive any form of help.

A total of 3.8 million households (21.5 percent) reported experiencing hunger in the past three months. Of this number, around 3.1 million families (17.4 percent) experienced moderate hunger, while over 725,000 (4.1 percent) experienced severe hunger.

Hunger is defined as "involuntary" if there is no option of having something to eat. "Moderate hunger" refers to those who experienced hunger "only once" or "a few times" during the last three months, while "severe hunger" refers to experiencing hunger "often" or "always" over the same period, according to a statement released yesterday by the SWS.

Less than 50 cents a day

A report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) released earlier this month found that 162 million of the world's poorest people survived on less than 50 cents a day and that the "poorest people have benefited the least from substantial reductions in poverty" worldwide during the past 15 years.

"The dismally slow progress in reaching people living in ultra poverty clearly shows that 'business as usual' is not good enough," said Ruth Vargas Hill, IFPRI researcher and co-author of the study, "The World's Most Deprived: Characteristic and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger."

According to the IFPRI study, some 11 million Filipino families were among the 1 billion people worldwide who live on less than $1 (P43) a day, the threshold defined as extreme poverty by the United Nations.

In all, the third quarter Social Weather Survey conducted from Sept. 2 to Sept. 5 also found that around 11 million families (62 percent) nationwide said they did not receive any kind of help in the past three months. This number included the families who did not experience hunger (78.5 percent), as well as those who experienced hunger during the past three months (21.5 percent).

Money gifts

Meanwhile, around 7 million families (38 percent) nationwide said they received help in the past quarter, mostly in the form of money gifts (19 percent) and mostly from relatives (64 percent).

The survey asked household heads, "In the past three months, did your family receive any of the following kinds of help?" followed by a list of pre-identified forms of assistance.

The survey found that of those who experienced hunger and received help, 18 percent said they received food, 16 percent received "money gifts," and 13 percent received "money loans." Sources of help were mostly family (23 percent) and friends (8 percent). Seven percent said they received help from the government and 6 percent said they received help from private persons.

Impeach raps dead, for now

THE ADMINISTRATION-dominated House of Representatives has junked the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The rejection was made last Nov. 14, the day after the bomb explosion in the Batasan that killed three people—including Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar—and injured about 10 others.

The complainants, composed mostly of militant activists, were quietly informed by letter that the President was immune for a year from another impeachment suit.

According to lawyer Neri Colmenares, who prepared the complaint, the letter said that the complaint constituted a second case against the President, which would fall under the one-year restriction defined by the Supreme Court.

One of the complainants, Carol Araullo of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said they were not giving up in their bid to unseat Ms Arroyo and would elevate the matter to the high tribunal. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Erap lawyers fail to stop sheriff but win gag order

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE LAWYERS OF OUSTED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada have failed to stop the Sandiganbayan sheriff from tracking down the pardoned leader's ill-gotten personal assets.

However, they managed to wangle a gag order from the court barring Sheriff Ed Urieta and Executive Clerk of Court Renato Bocar from giving updates to the media on their efforts to recover Estrada's wealth.

Estrada was convicted by the Sandiganbayan for plunder last Sept. 12 but was later given executive clemency by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The absolute pardon came with no conditions and would be difficult to recall, said Justice secretary Raul Gonzalez. But the pardon states that the forfeiture orders of the court would remain.

His lawyer, Jose Flaminiano, asked the Special Division to stop Urieta from executing court orders for Estrada to hand over to the government more than P700 million and real estate property while a petition to quash the orders was still pending in court. Estrada lawyers said the writs of execution went beyond the scope of the court's decision.

The order specifically covered the P545 million deposited in the Erap Muslim Foundation account, the P189 million deposited in the Jose Velarde account and the "Boracay Mansion." But in subsequent the writs, the court said it could seize the ousted president's disposable properties that were not covered by the execution if he could not pay all or part of his obligation.

Denying Flaminiano's request, Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta said the sheriff was merely looking into Estrada's personal assets and was nowhere near forfeiting them.

Last week, Urieta disclosed that his office was looking at four sports utility vehicles that they suspect is owned by the former president.

The sheriff has yet to receive confirmation on this from Estrada's old rival, Reynaldo Berroya—now chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and assistant transportation secretary.

Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, however, agreed that the sheriff's media pronouncements may cause undue embarrassment to Estrada.

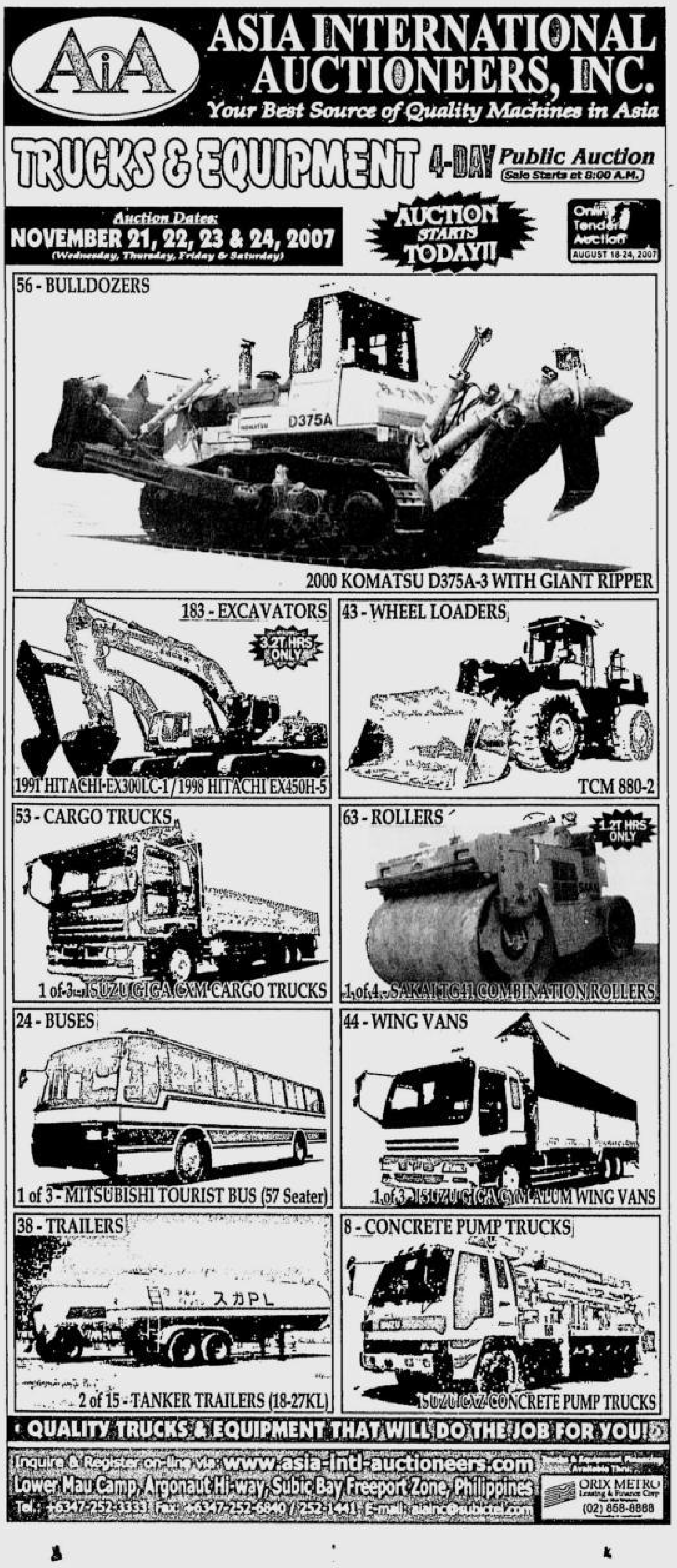
In reply to the lawyer's complaint, De Castro said, "We have already instructed Sheriff Urieta and Attorney Bocar not to issue press statements [on matters of the forfeiture proceedings]." *With a report by Leila B. Salaverria*

WHAT'S INSIDE

▩ **GONZALEZ,** Lacson have nice words for each other /A3

▩ **SAGUISAG** wanted GMA to take stand in coup trial /A11

▩ **LOTTO WINNER** in no hurry to claim P105M /A22


AiA ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia

TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT 4-DAY *Public Auction* (Sale Starts at 8:00 A.M.)

Auction Dates:
NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2007
(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

AUCTION STARTS TODAY!!

Online Tender Auction AUGUST 18-24, 2007

56 - BULLDOZERS
2000 KOMATSU D375A-3 WITH GIANT RIPPER

183 - EXCAVATORS
3.2T HRS ONLY
1991 HITACHI-EX300LC-1/1998 HITACHI EX450H-5

43 - WHEEL LOADERS
TCM 880-2

53 - CARGO TRUCKS
1 of 3 - ISUZU GIGA CXM CARGO TRUCKS

63 - ROLLERS
1.2T HRS ONLY
1 of 4 - SAKAI TG41 COMBINATION ROLLERS

24 - BUSES
1 of 3 - MITSUBISHI TOURIST BUS (57 Seater)

44 - WING VANS
1 of 3 - ISUZU GIGA CYM ALUM WING VANS

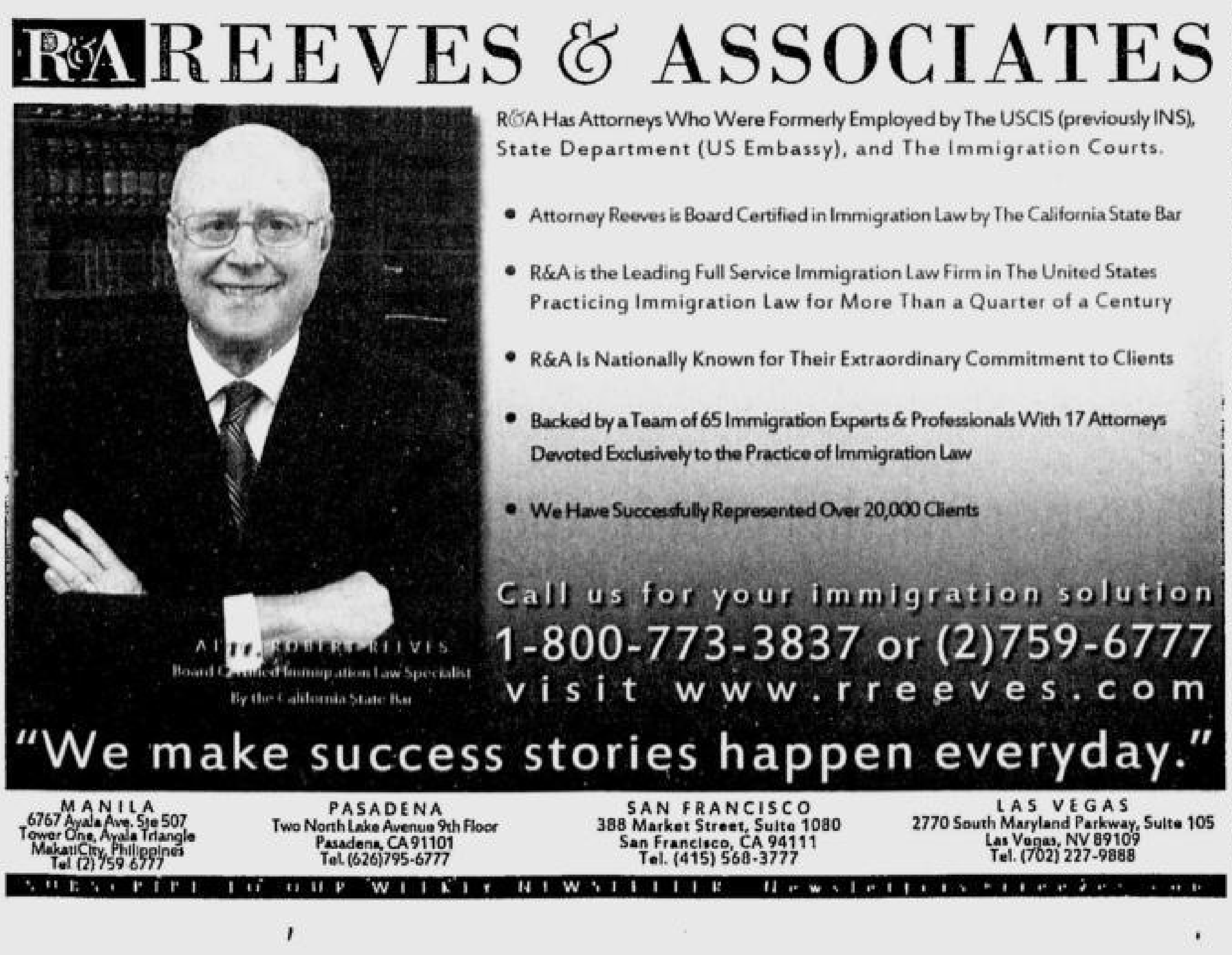
38 - TRAILERS
2 of 15 - TANKER TRAILERS (18-27KL)

8 - CONCRETE PUMP TRUCKS
ISUZU CXZ CONCRETE PUMP TRUCKS

QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!

Inquire & Register on-line via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel.: +6347-252-3333 Fax: +6347-252-6840 / 252-1441 E-mail: aiainc@subictel.com

Trucks & Equipment Financing Available Thru: ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp (02) 858-8888


R&A REEVES & ASSOCIATES

R&A Has Attorneys Who Were Formerly Employed by The USCIS (previously INS), State Department (US Embassy), and The Immigration Courts.

- Attorney Reeves is Board Certified in Immigration Law by The California State Bar
- R&A is the Leading Full Service Immigration Law Firm in The United States Practicing Immigration Law for More Than a Quarter of a Century
- R&A Is Nationally Known for Their Extraordinary Commitment to Clients
- Backed by a Team of 65 Immigration Experts & Professionals With 17 Attorneys Devoted Exclusively to the Practice of Immigration Law
- We Have Successfully Represented Over 20,000 Clients

ATTY. ROBERT REEVES
Board Certified Immigration Law Specialist
By the California State Bar

Call us for your immigration solution
1-800-773-3837 or (2)759-6777
visit www.rreeves.com

"We make success stories happen everyday."

MANILA
6767 Ayala Ave. Ste 507
Tower One, Ayala Triangle
Makati City, Philippines
Tel (2) 759 6777

PASADENA
Two North Lake Avenue 9th Floor
Pasadena, CA 91101
Tel. (626)795-6777

SAN FRANCISCO
388 Market Street, Suite 1080
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tel. (415) 568-3777

LAS VEGAS
2770 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 105
Las Vegas, NV 89109
Tel. (702) 227-9888

[illegible]

Gonzalez, Lacson have nice words for each other

By Leila B. Salaverria

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez, a staunch defender of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the President's fiercest opposition critic, are not the best of friends. In fact, they have clashed publicly on many occasions.

But when Gonzalez, who underwent a kidney transplant operation last September, returned to work last Monday, Lacson had some kind words for him.

Press reports quoted the senator as saying he was inclined to recommend the confirmation of Gonzalez at the congressional Commission on Appointments out of respect for the latter's zeal to return to work.

Gonzalez was so pleased with Lacson's gesture he was compelled to write the senator.

"I am thankful for your statement for I know all along that you did not really oppose me because of my lack of qualifications and competence but for other political considerations," Gonzalez said in his Nov. 20 letter to Lacson.

He said he never considered Lacson a political opponent, "because I believe that you and I may have different approaches in carrying out our desire to serve our people but when it comes to the interest of our country, we vote as many but we pray as one people."

He said he was taking Lacson's statement "on its face value."

"In the first place, it was an unsolicited comment. We have not talked to each other," he said.

Asked how this would affect the investigation of any issue involving the senator, Gonzalez said "that would really depend on the issues involved."

He said Lacson's statement about his appointment was "something more personal."

Lacson has filed a criminal complaint against Gonzalez for allegedly offering P10,000 to every barangay official in Iloilo who could secure a landslide victory for the administration's senatorial candidates in the May elections.

Gonzalez, on the other hand, has ordered an investigation into the certain unindicted co-conspirators of a Leandro Aragoncillo, a Filipino American who was convicted of espionage by a US court and sentenced last July to six to 10 years in prison for stealing and passing on secret US documents in a bid to topple the Arroyo administration.

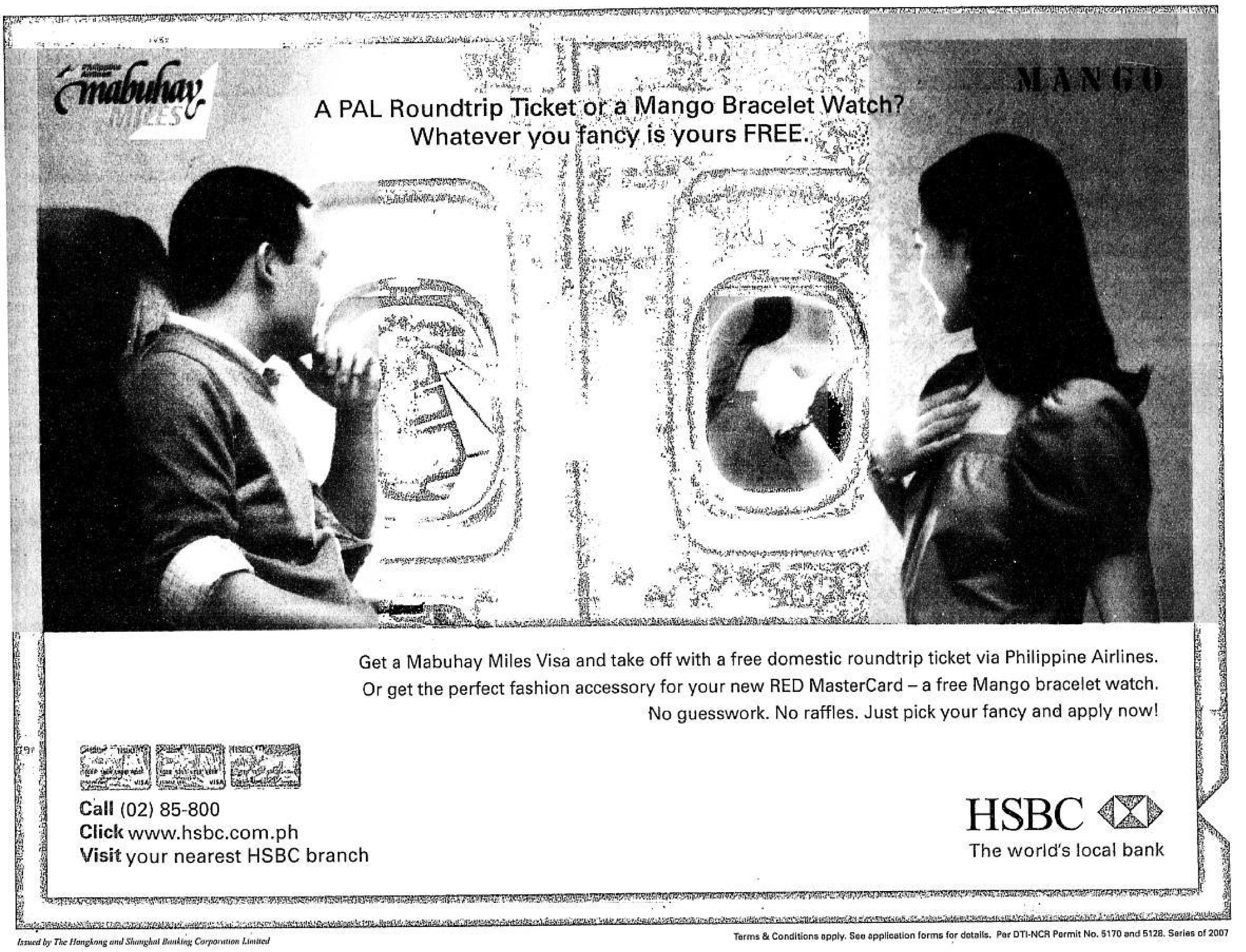
Aragoncillo, a former US Marine and Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence analyst, admitted passing information to Michael Ray Aquino, a former aide of Lacson, and opposition politicians in the Philippines who wanted to oust Ms Arroyo.

Aquino, who pleaded guilty in a deal that spared him from a life term had he been convicted of espionage, was sentenced to six years and four months in prison.

The plot involved the theft of classified national defense documents from the White House and the FBI.

Recipients of the documents included ousted President Joseph Estrada and Lacson.

Gonzalez said Estrada and other politicians who received the US documents may have committed sedition.



A PAL Roundtrip Ticket or a Mango Bracelet Watch?
Whatever you fancy is yours FREE.

Get a Mabuhay Miles Visa and take off with a free domestic roundtrip ticket via Philippine Airlines.
Or get the perfect fashion accessory for your new RED MasterCard – a free Mango bracelet watch.
No guesswork. No raffles. Just pick your fancy and apply now!

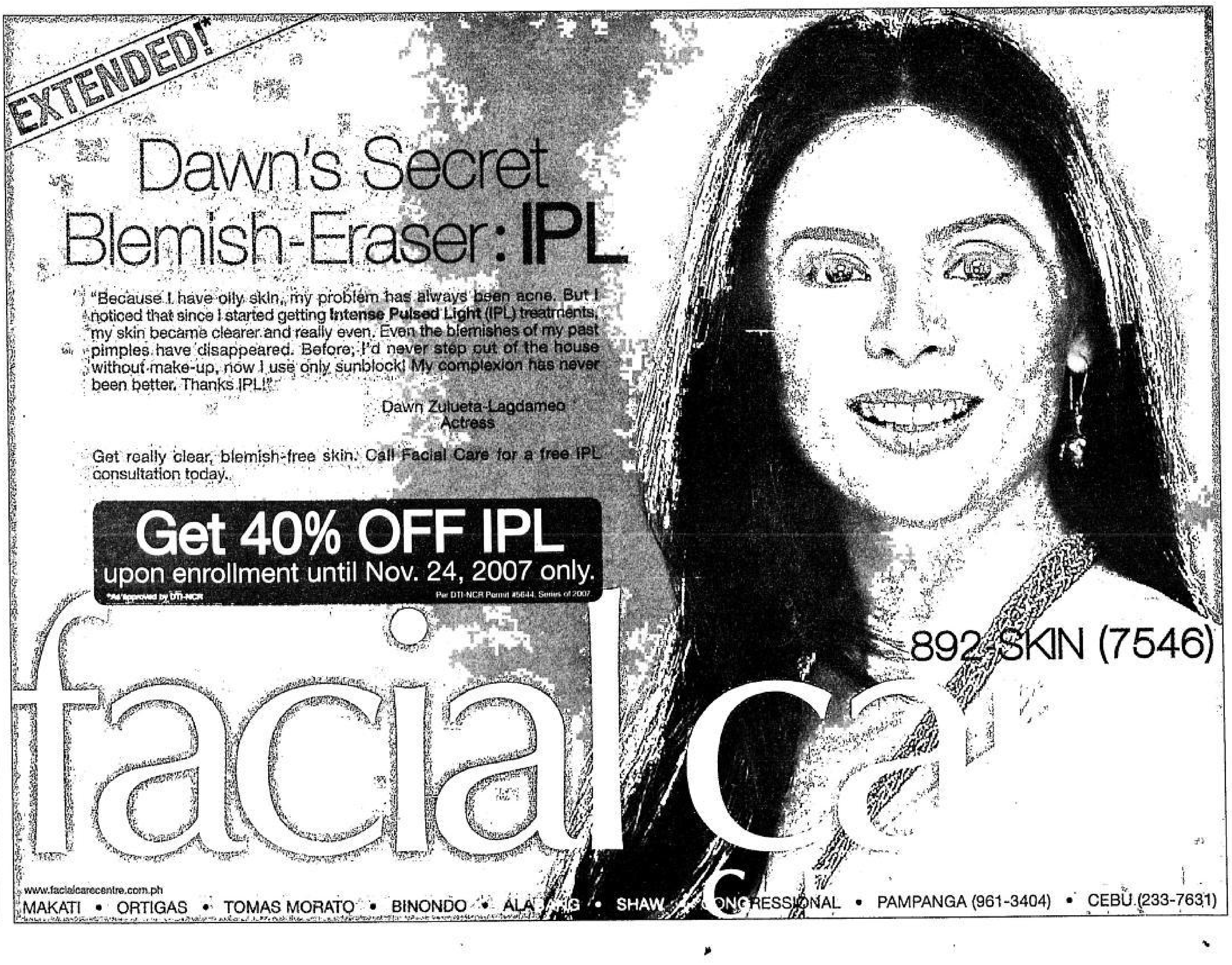
Call (02) 85-800
Click www.hsbc.com.ph
Visit your nearest HSBC branch

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Terms & Conditions apply. See application forms for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5170 and 5128. Series of 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.



EXTENDED!*

Dawn's Secret Blemish-Eraser: IPL

"Because I have oily skin, my problem has always been acne. But I noticed that since I started getting **Intense Pulsed Light** (IPL) treatments, my skin became clearer and really even. Even the blemishes of my past pimples have disappeared. Before, I'd never step out of the house without make-up, now I use only sunblock! My complexion has never been better. Thanks IPL!"

Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo
Actress

Get really clear, blemish-free skin. Call Facial Care for a free IPL consultation today.

Get 40% OFF IPL
upon enrollment until Nov. 24, 2007 only.
*As approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI-NCR Permit #5644, Series of 2007

892-SKIN (7546)

facial ca

www.facialcarecentre.com.ph
MAKATI • ORTIGAS • TOMAS MORATO • BINONDO • ALA[illegible] • SHAW • [illegible]ONGRESSIONAL • PAMPANGA (961-3404) • CEBU (233-7631)

Britannica SALE UP 70% OFF!
ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA(32v) 19,995 only
Compton's (26v) 19,995 only (Previous & latest ed. Available)
Great Books (60v) Reg. P69,995 Now P59,995
Britannica CD-Rom & Videos (VCD) BUY 1 TAKE 1
Britannica Online & other Online Services FREE TRIAL
Brit. Ready Reference CD-Rom Reg. P1,250 NOW P199 only!
Dealers & Sales Agents are welcome!
Ph: 687-1286, 637-6382, 643-4856 Mob: 0919 - 6638250 Ariel O. Dizon
Excl. Dist.: High Access Line U-1027 Cityland Shaw Twr, Ortigas, Mand.
(b/s Shangri-la Plaza, Ortigas Ctr.)Em:highaccessline@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market
YOUR CONNECTION TO BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS

Oil firms face probe for price-fixing

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

RATHER THAN AMEND THE OIL Deregulation Law, the Senate yesterday said it would look into possible price manipulation by the oil companies, in a move to cushion the impact of the skyrocketing price of oil.

At a hearing on the recent series of oil price hikes, Sen. Manuel Roxas, chair of the Senate trade and commerce committee, said a subcommittee would be formed to look into possible violations of the Anti-Trust Law by the oil firms.

ROXAS

Profits must be fair

The subcommittee will be headed by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who vowed to immediately start hearings into possible business malpractices such as price-fixing by the oil firms.

Enrile, who chairs the finance committee, earlier said he planned to report out the budget to the Senate plenary by the last week of November.

"We're not going to go against the right of business to do business … but profits must be fair or reasonable," Enrile said.

Groups lauded Reyes' vow

During the hearing, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes promised to scrutinize the oil companies' books to determine if they had excessively raised their pump prices.

Various transport groups lauded Reyes' vow, but at the same time urged the Senate to amend or to repeal the Oil Deregulation Law.

Just making sure

Roxas pointed out that under the law, the Department of Energy has the power to review the books of the oil companies for abuses, but past energy secretaries did not exercise this power.

Roxas, Enrile and Senators Panfilo Lacson and Alan Cayetano did not reply to the transport groups' request to review the Oil Deregulation Law.

Roxas instead promised to look into the effects of tariffs, fees and the EVAT on the prices of oil and other petroleum products to see how they could be reduced.

"*Tanggap naman natin tumataas ang* oil prices *sa* world market. *Gusto lang natin masiguro na hindi tayo pinagsasamantalahan* (We accept that oil prices are rising in the world market. We just want to make sure we are not being taken advantage of)," he said.

Experience a memorable evening with the Concert King in his Silver Christmas Celebration at the newest and most exciting concert venue . . . the world class SMX Convention Center.
MAXIMEDIA and SMX present
MARTIN NIEVERA
X'MAS at SMX
A SILVER X'MAS CELEBRATION
December 8, 2007 Saturday 9PM
SMX CONVENTION CENTER
Seashell Drive, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City
Tickets at P 850 • P 1,350 (inclusive of ticketron charges)
Available at:
National Book Store Ticket World 891-5610 891-9999
MAXIMEDIA 551-7777
with Special Guest
Charice Pempengco
For the benefit of the Lonie Tabuena Liver Foundation

Enjoy Wireless Entertainment this Season
WOW! Wireless Duet!
New! CONCERTO EDITION
Ms. Regine Velasquez
Asia's Songbird
Proud owner of a WOW! magic sing
the No.1
NEW FEATURES:
2 Hassle-free Wireless Microphones • 10-50 meter range • Improved sound quality • On-screen search by Title or Artist • Select audio output mode (Amplifier or TV mode) • Input songs from remote control • Challenge 100 game • Scroll by page • 4 song chip slots
Plus! Built-in 2,064 songs & 100% WOW Philippines Scenic background
Up to 12 mos. 0% Installment!
NOW AVAILABLE! TAGALOG 8 with 460 songs
WOW Authorized Dealer:
AstroVision • odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO • Automatic CENTRE • ABENSON • WESTERN • JB MUSIC The Complete Music Shop • Robinsons Appliances • ASTROPLUS • Home & Office Center • Kultura Filipino • SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER • Houseware & Appliance Center • The Listening Room • EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES • Anson @HOME (Pasig) • avant ABENSON • BLADE • TIONGSAN HARRISON • ADDESSA • BHF • GUANZON • Magic Appliance Center • NCCC Dept. Store • ABENSON • Music Zone • METRO PLAZA The Appliance Center
Metro Manila: Raon, Binondo - Ampere - Ample - Apo Electronics - Armstone - Armstrong Electronics - Fair N Square - FCM Electronics - First Asian Sales - Hirose - J&R - Just Appliance - Knight Audio Room - MAK Audio Video - Martcom Cellular - Milenium Electronics - MJS - Metrotech - New Altronics - Ohms Trader - Pacific Electronics - Prosound Electronics - Prosperous Merchandising - Rodriguez Electronics - Sansonic Marketing - Santech - Solid Electronics - Soundquest Electronics - Welcome Home - W&M Marketing - Worldwide - Zoe Electronics - CALOOCAN - Electroworld - View Plus - Fair N' Square - QUEZON CITY - IAJ Wellness Corporation - CUBAO - Next Genz - Nintendo - MANDALUYONG - Audiophile - Listening Room - Listening Style - RMV Audio Studio - Sights & Sounds - Virtuoso - VMZ Business Center - MAKATI - Earl Toy World - Fligifts.com - Maxx Energie Ventures - Puregold Inc. - Spectra - Victronics Computers Inc. - GREENHILLS - Golden Sound - Silver Gate Computer - Other Metro Manila - Audio Maxx - Amazon - Belcap - Estrellita Appliance - Exponent Group - Finds Superstore - Hardware Exchange - Impress Commercial - Micro J - Nintendo Commercial - Save on Surplus - Work Station - PCBS - E-Pacific Global - Kabayantrading.com - Pesocard.com - Provincial Dealers: Luzon (North) - Addessa - Asiatic Radio Supply - Consumers Appliance Traders - Dagupan Audio Electronics - Ever Appliance - Everest Furniture & Appliance - Grace Electronics - Guanzon Merhandising - International Freeport - Jetronix - Joy's Radio Center & Record Bar - Luzon Appliance Centrum - Manhattan Marketing - Mike's Dept. Store - Solar Sales Center - TSB Bazaar - Ocampo's Inc. Baguio - Ocampo's Angeles - Ocampos Mega Store - Power Station Electronics - Psalm Music Center - Punzalan Trading - S&J Marketing - Soundtrack Electronics - (South) - Aben Marketing - Alson Trading - Jayson Marketing - Multi Brand Distributor - People's Marketing - Robertson Mall - Royal StarAppliance - Thesson's Marketing - Willy & Sons - VISAYAS & MINDANAO - Alfa Appliance - Appliance Centrum Bacolod / Dumaguete - Asian Home - BCS Music Center - Better Components - Better Living Appliance Center - Bohol Quality - Cebu Appliance - Cebu Circuit City - Central RJ Homes - Central Quality Appliance Plaza Inc. - Citi Appliance - CFM Cotabato Falcon Marketing - Davao Better Homes - Dimdi Center - Desmark - Echo - Eco-Tech - Electelcom - Fiesta Appliance Center - Fit Mart - First Family Appliance Circle - Golden Bell - Gloria Bazar - Gleen Marketing - Goldsquare - Graphic All-in - GV Appliance - Harmansons - Holiday Appliance Plaza - KCC Mall of Gensan & Marbel - LYR Marketing - Lopue's Department Store - Loud & Clear - Metro Appliance Centrum - Metro Plaza (Zamboanga) - Naces Appliance - OK Dept. Store - POS Marketing - Quality Appliance - R Abenson - Rainbow Appliance Plaza - Reverb - RJ Homes - Romstrel General Merchandise - Smart Zone - Star Mark Appliance Center - Simosa Marketing - Soundroom - Special Appliance Plaza - Sungold Electronic Supply - Time Express Depot - Victoria Dept. Store
Exclusively Distributed by in-a-jiffy enterprises & G2K CORPORATION
Visit the WOW! Showrooms:
• 1081 EDSA Balintawak, Quezon City • Tels.: (632) 362-1566 or (632) 361-9450 or (632) 362-3898
• Left Wing G/F Richbelt Terraces, 19 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan • Tels.: (632) 725-3994 and (632) 722-5527
• c/o MAXX ENERGIE GF Bldg. 3 Jannov Plaza 2295 Pasong Tamo Ext. Makati City, MM, Philippines • Tel: (632)-892-8980
Log on to www.wowcountry.com.ph or www.wowmagicsing.com or www.magicmic.com
© Philippine Copyright 2007 by In-A-Jiffy Enterprises

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 14 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Bribery whistleblowers charged"—misspelled the name of the Misamis Occidental governor and misstated the province of Gov. Joselito Mendoza. The Misamis Occidental governor is Leo Ocampos—not Campos. Mendoza is the governor of Bulacan—not Malolos.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 18 ISSUE, the Milestones segment on Page D1 of the Lifestyle section inadvertently attached the wrong photograph to the announcement of the Bautista-Salvador wedding. At right is the photograph of Harold Paulo Bautista and Ma. Theresa Salvador, who will get married on Nov. 24 at the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong City.

BAUTISTA-SALVADOR

* * *

IN THE NOV. 18 ISSUE, a story on K1 of the Entertainment Section—"Love in the prime of Shakira"—misstated the age of the singer Shakira. She is 30—not 35—years old.

* * *

IN THE NOV. 20 ISSUE, a story on Page A7—"Answer writ filed by moms, court orders AFP officer"—misstated that the Supreme Court filed its fifth writ of amparo on Friday. It was the sixth writ of amparo issued by the high court.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 11-02-2007 HER

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested car manufacturers / dealers in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply and Delivery of One (1) Unit Brand New 7-Seater Mini Van

Technical Specifications : Vehicle: Brand New 7-Seater Mini Van; Engine: 3.8L V6 12 Valve OHV Gasoline, 201.5 cu. in. Engine Displacement; 205hp / 5,200 rpm Maximum Output; 240lb-ft/4,000 rpm Maximum Torque; 4-speed Automatic Transmission; Electronic Control Fuel Injection System; 4372 lbs. Base Curb Weight; 5093 mm. Overall Length, 1996 mm. Overall Width; 1852 mm. Overall Height; Independent Front Suspension & Left-Spring Rear Suspension; Rack & Pinion Steering with Power Assist, 215/65 R16 Tires & 16" Cast Aluminum Wheels; All Rows Leather Seats and Side Trims; Stow 'N Go Seating Configuration; Rear Overhead A/C Vents; Overhead Console with Trip Computer; Power Adjustable Side Mirrors; Roof Rack.

Approved Budget : Two Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php2,250,000.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 21, 2007 – December 10, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 27, 2007 (2:00 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	December 11, 2007 (2:00 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	December 11, 2007 (2:00 pm onwards)

Complete details of the project are indicated in the **bid documents** which will be available to prospective bidders at the Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC) Secretariat, Branch Procurement and Property Office, PAGCOR - Heritage, Roxas Boulevard corner EDSA, Pasay City upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of: ***One Thousand One Hundred Twenty Five Pesos (Php1,125.00)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BBAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC) Secretariat, Branch Procurement and Property Office, Tel. No: 854-7343.

(Sgd.) **ABM CORNELIUS M. GOZE**
Chairperson, BBAC PAGCOR - Heritage

(PDI–Nov. 21, 2007)

House body OKs Epira amendments; IPPs protest

By Abigail L. Ho

A BILL AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT No. 9136, the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), has passed at the committee level, with almost all members of the House committee on energy voting to have certain provisions of the existing law amended.

But the amendments have been strongly opposed and described as "counter-productive" by the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (PIPPA), which said that consumers won't benefit from any acts amending the Epira now and will only undermine the competitiveness of the power industry.

PIPPA is an organization of privately owned local and foreign independent power producers (IPPs). It currently has 26 members. Membership is expected to increase as more Napocor plants are privatized.

The amendment bill, filed by Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo and Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, seeks to bring down the current 70-percent National Power Corp. privatization threshold to only 50 percent so that retail competition and open access could be implemented soon.

'Heart and soul'

"The heart and soul of the Epira is to have open access so that fair and free competition will be achieved. However, there has been some delay, such as the creation of PSALM (the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.), the transfer of Napocor assets to PSALM, and securing creditors consent," Villafuerte said.

"So what Napocor has achieved in terms of privatization is just for 38 percent of its generating capacity. Thus, instead of trying to achieve a 70-percent privatization level, let us temporarily reduce this to 50 percent so we can already achieve open access," he added.

Before retail competition and open access can be implemented, the Epira mandates that five requirements be met. They are: the establishment and commercial operation of the wholesale electricity spot market; the approval of unbundled transmission and distribution wheeling charges; the implementation of the cross-subsidy removal scheme; the privatization of 70 percent of Napocor's Luzon and Visayas capacities; and the transfer of 70 percent of Napocor capacity covered by independent power producer contracts to IPP administrators.

Opposition

Only the first three requirements had been met so far.

Up to the very end, however, there was still some opposition to the Epira amendment bill, primarily because Napocor would continue to have a dominant position in the market upon implementation of retail competition and open access.

Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III said it would be better to just ensure the implementation of the Epira in its existing form than to amend it at this time.

"Let us implement the law and not change it. If we allow open access, all that means is that consumers will have the right to choose from different generators. But who are the generators? For instance, there are three plants. So the consumer has the freedom to choose between Napocor-1, Napocor-2 and Napocor-3. What kind of a choice is that? It is a meaningless choice," he said.

The PIPPA, in a position paper submitted to the House, said lowering the privatization threshold from 70 percent will only be "detrimental effect on the industry."

HONEY MOON
LOVE POTION FOR MEN
AVOID EMBARRASSMENT & FRUSTRATION
Honey, huwag'ng makulit...
Honey, huwag'ng makulit...
Para happy ang pagsasama mag Honeymoon Tea ka!
LAGING ♂ HANDA
(HINDI KA MAPAPAHIYA)
BFAD Approved: FR-43104

all about Kids fair 50% off
Nov. 15 - Dec. 2
great finds FOR THE LITTLE MISS
Blue Camp stripe collared knit top P255
Disney Princess shoulder bag Now P199.75 Reg. Price P299.75
assorted headband 10% off
Huggables bunny 10% off Reg. Price P399.75
Blue Camp embellished belted denim skirt P385 - P515
Shaina step-in 25% off
great finds FOR THE LITTLE MISTERS
Carter 3-in-1 boys' brief 10% off
BMX w/ training wheels Now P899
Blue Camp shirt w/ collar P199 - P239
Red Bears colored twill shorts 10% off
baby MIX & MATCH
Little Me assorted terno 10% off Reg. Price P79.75
stroller Now P999 Reg. Price P1,399.75
Baby wipes 3 for P99
Newborn socks 3 for P99

Fun Activities Mechanics:
FASTEST CRAWLING BABY-LACTACYD (Nov.24)
(Metro Legazpi & Metro Market! Market!)
- Open to all cute and energetic babies (age range: 6-8months)
- To register, present any baby lactacyd product proof of purchase.
- Fill-up an entry form and present a photocopy of birth certificate at the Customer Service Counter. Only 12 participants will be accepted (6 boys and 6 girls). (More details at the Customer Service Counter)

In cooperation with: Lactoserum Lactic Acid Lactacyd, Burlington, Wyeth, Blue Camp, redbears

See poster mechanics for more details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3927, Series of 2007

METRO MARKET! MARKET! Bonifacio, Global City

Dora's Newest Live Musical Show!
DORA THE EXPLORER
Best Friends Day!

Celebrate Friendship and the Holidays with Dora & Boots at Robinsons Malls!

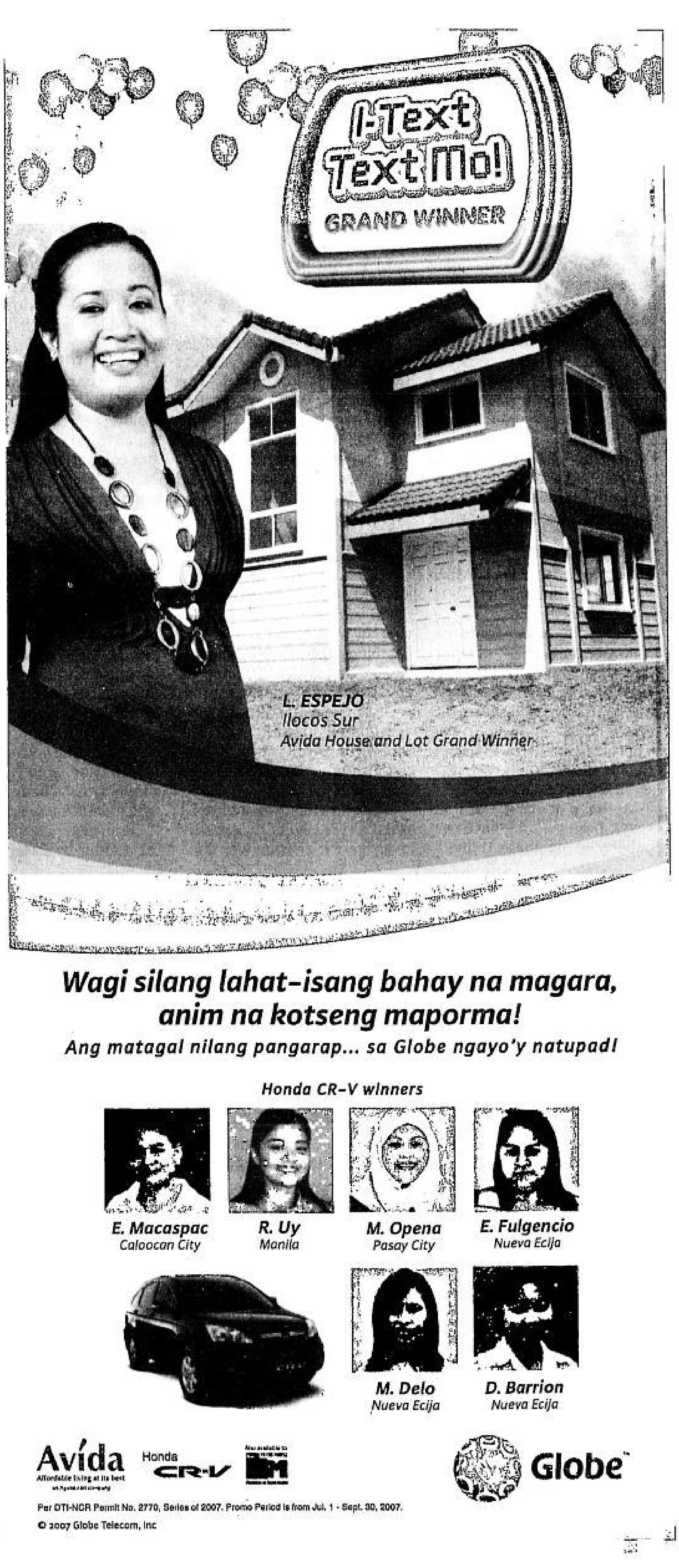
Help Dora & Boots find their way to meet on Rainbow Rock for a special picnic in this musical adventure!

Event Schedule:
Nov 23 • Metro East • 2pm & 4pm
Nov 24 • Dasmarinas • 2pm & 4pm
Nov 25 • Lipa • 2pm & 4pm
Nov 30 • Manila • 2pm & 4pm
Dec 1 • Nova Market • 2pm & 4pm
Dec 2 • Pampanga • 2pm & 4pm
Dec 7 • Galleria • 2pm & 4pm
Dec 8 • Sta. Rosa • 4pm
Dec 9 • Imus • 2pm & 4pm
Dec 14 • Angeles • 4pm
Dec 15 • Pioneer • 2pm & 4pm

Check-out Nickelodeon's extensive range of products available at the Nick Store!

© 2007 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, Nick Jr., Dora the Explorer and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc.

TOYS 'R' US ROBINSONS Malls



I-Text Text Mo! GRAND WINNER
L. ESPEJO
Ilocos Sur
Avida House and Lot Grand Winner

Wagi silang lahat–isang bahay na magara, anim na kotseng maporma!
Ang matagal nilang pangarap... sa Globe ngayo'y natupad!

Honda CR–V winners
E. Macaspac Caloocan City
R. Uy Manila
M. Opena Pasay City
E. Fulgencio Nueva Ecija
M. Delo Nueva Ecija
D. Barrion Nueva Ecija

Avida Affordable living at its best · Honda CR-V · Globe

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2770, Series of 2007. Promo Period is from Jul. 1 - Sept. 30, 2007.
© 2007 Globe Telecom, Inc

Suspect leads cops to another bomb in Malate

From page A1

ploding prematurely.

Police said the information on the bomb had come from former Tuburan (Basilan) Mayor Hajarun Jamiri who led them to the house.

Jamiri was in police custody after he was found in a Malate apartelle that was pointed to by the three suspects—Caidar Aunal, 41, Ikram Indama, 35, and Adham Kusain, 21—who were arrested in a raid in Payatas, Quezon City, on Nov. 15, two days after the Batasan bombing that left Akbar and three others dead and 12 others wounded, including two lawmakers.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres, Army spokesperson, said the alternate plan was to bomb Akbar's home in a Pasig City subdivision had the Batasan attack failed.

The three suspects were named in a complaint for murder and frustrated murder filed with the Department of Justice on Monday. The three have admitted that Akbar was their target, but police have not uncovered the masterminds of the plot.

The Army's Intelligence and Security Group (ISG) is part of the team investigating the bombing.

Alternate plan

The targets of the Monday apartelle raid in Malate were alleged to be involved in preparing the explosives to be planted at Akbar's house in Valle Verde subdivision had the Batasan attack failed, Torres said.

"It was going to be the alternate plan," he said.

Torres said the three Payatas suspects only pointed to the apartelle in Manila where the men were supposed to be staying.

"But we still don't know if there were specific people," he said.

Torres said Jamiri and his aide, Halik Usman, who were at the apartelle at the time of the raid, were invited for questioning.

Usman was released for lack of evidence.

But Jamiri, who helped the military negotiate the release of kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi in June, was charged in a Manila court with illegal possession of a firearm for carrying an unlicensed .45-cal. pistol, police said.

Traces of explosives

Torres said traces of explosives were found on the motorbike, helmet, motorcycle goggles and jacket of Jamiri. But there was no information if explosives were found at the apartelle, Torres said.

"There are indications that he was linked to the Batasan bombing," he said.

Torres said there was no information if Jamiri was a member of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

The 47-year-old Akbar was a former member of the Abu Sayyaf, but he recently facilitated a military crackdown against the group.

In two places

Also yesterday, Tuburan Mayor Dorie Kalahal protested an INQUIRER story yesterday that said he had been arrested on Monday night at Pepe's Inn in Malate in connection with the Batasan blast. The story was attributed to Director Geary Barias of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Kalahal said he was in Isabela, Basilan, on Monday night, where he attended a peace and order meeting.

"How can I be in two places at the same time, said Kalahal, a former Moro National Liberation Front commander.

In Zamboanga, police took into custody the wife of Ikram Indama, one of the detained suspects in Manila, and her 3-year-old child, after she sought protection, fearing reprisal from Akbar's followers.

Independent probe

Also yesterday, relatives and political supporters of Akbar trooped to the Batasan to seek an independent investigation of the killing.

Led by Basilan Gov. Jum Akbar, one of the late congressman's wives, the group asked Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to assist police in determining the people behind the purported assassination.

The request coincided with the resolution filed by three leftist party-list lawmakers seeking the creation of a "special multiparty committee" to look into the matter.

"It is important that the House have a significant role in the investigation considering ... the possibility that the House itself could have been the target of the attack," according to the resolution filed by Representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran.

Mastermind

"We all know who the mastermind is," Lantawan Mayor Tahira Ismael, Akbar's niece, told reporters following a meeting with De Venecia.

Asked by a television reporter if she believed that the mastermind was in the "House" of Representatives, Ismael said, "yes" before implicating Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman and ex-Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, who both have denied involvement.

"That's why people should beware because there could be another explosion in Congress," she said.

Ismael said she was also convinced that the phone call that purportedly triggered the blast came from the Batasan complex.

She said there was no way that the identified suspects could have staged the bombing without help from other people.

Congressman Hataman yesterday admitted that Benjamin "Jang" Hataman, one of those named in the police complaint sent to the justice department on Monday, was his first cousin.

But he described the accusation as "outrageous." He said Jang frequented the House because the man was applying for a job.

"I have nothing to do with the killing," Congressman Hataman told the INQUIRER.

During the meeting, De Venecia promised that he would seek a "full and total justice" for Akbar.

SERIOUSLY SPEAKING: Sen. Joker Arroyo's legal perorations on the no-show witness Romulo Neri get the full attention of his Senate colleagues Mar Roxas, Alan Cayetano, Rodolfo Biazon, Ping Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile during Tuesday's hearing on the ZTE broadband deal.

WAITING THEIR TURN: Resource persons at the Senate probe include Eric Espanol and Ramon Isberto of Smart, lawyer Raul Lambino, Rodolfo Salalima of Globe, lawyer William Pamintuan of Digitel and Joevel Rivera of Bayan Telecommunications.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

JDV reported slay plot to GMA, lawyer tells Senate

From page A1

tired Gen. Jaime de los Santos had volunteered information about a supposed plan of Mendoza, Land Transportation Office chief Reynaldo Berroya and Bureau of Corrections Director Ricardo Dapat to assassinate the Speaker and his son.

De los Santos, a former Army chief, has publicly denied the allegation, saying the younger De Venecia concocted the story. In a statement yesterday, he called Lambino's testimony and that of Joey "tall tales" and "blatant lies."

Mendoza, Berroya, Dapat and even De Venecia did not appear at the sixth hearing of the committee.

Warned 3 times

Lambino claimed De los Santos contacted him on Oct. 15 to tell him about the plot.

He said the general told his story thrice on Oct. 19—the first time to Lambino when they met outside Forbes Park in Makati, the second time in front of the Speaker, his son and Lambino at the Speaker's residence in Forbes Park, and the third time with the Speaker's wife Gina around.

"You have to take care of yourself because they have the capability to do these things," Lambino quoted De los Santos as saying. He said De los Santos told them that the plan called for prisoners to be released to go after the De Venecias.

"The group of Secretary Mendoza was mad about Joey's revelations on the ZTE contract," Lambino further quoted De los Santos.

'Fear not Abalos ..."

The lawyer claimed De los Santos even told the younger De Venecia: "You have to fear not Abalos, you have to fear more Larry Mendoza."

"Whether Mr. De los Santos was telling the truth I don't know," said Lambino, who added that in the five years he has known him, he had received "serious and sensitive information" from De los Santos.

"Based on his reputation, I have no doubt of the veracity of the information voluntarily given us by Mr. De los Santos," said Lambino, who previously spearheaded a failed attempt to amend the Constitution.

Under Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's questioning, Lambino said the Speaker took the warning "very seriously" that he told the President about it.

"I just don't know whether he asked the President to seriously investigate it or what was done about it," he said.

Administration allies Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Joker Arroyo dismissed Lambino's statement as irrelevant to the investigation into the ZTE-NBN contract and tried to block his testimony.

Sen. Alan Cayetano, blue ribbon committee chair, insisted that Lambino say his piece. "This goes to the truthfulness of Joey de Venecia III," he said.

Neri no-show

Yesterday's hearing was stymied after former Socioeconomic Secretary Romulo Neri failed to show up, prompting the committee to direct him to explain why he should not be cited for contempt.

Cayetano moved at the start of the hearing that Neri should be made to show cause for ignoring the Senate subpoena.

The motion was carried by a 5-2 vote, with Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Jinggoy Estrada, Manuel Roxas II, Jamby Madrigal and Panfilo Lacson in favor and administration allies Enrile and Arroyo against.

Biazon was out of the room at the time of the voting.

Neri was among 11 of 18 summoned resource persons who did not show up yesterday.

He instead sent the committee a letter by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that prohibited Neri from revealing his conversations with President Arroyo on the controversial ZTE contract, invoking "executive privilege."

Arroyo said Neri was not the one at fault. "He has been prevented from coming, so he's torn between two powerful forces," he said, referring to Malacañang and the Senate.

Question of quorum

Later, Arroyo told reporters the voting was invalid since there was no quorum. It was Enrile, however, not Arroyo, who asked during the hearing if there was a quorum, which Cayetano affirmed.

Arroyo insisted to reporters that a "majority of the members of a committee has to vote."

Later, in a statement, he added two more reasons for his vote: "Humanitarian considerations" since Neri had been interrogated for 10 hours, and the Supreme Court's ruling on Executive Order No. 464 that defined exemptions of public officials from attending legislative hearings.

During the hearing, Arroyo also argued that Aboitiz Transport System CEO Endika Aboitiz and International Container and Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) chair Enrique Razon Jr. should be exempt from summons.

He said the two businessmen had called him up, objecting to being summoned to the hearing.

Razon has done no wrong

In his last testimony, De Venecia III implicated Razon in the contract and claimed Aboitiz tried to broker a peace pact between the President and his father after the fallout from the aborted contract.

"Why should he clear his name when he has not done anything wrong?" Arroyo told the committee.

Cayetano said the committee was just giving Aboitiz and Razon the opportunity to refute De Venecia's testimony, but they did not have to show up if they did not want to.

De Venecia has apparently backed off from the probe.

In a letter to the committee, De Venecia said he had been advised by his lawyer that in his desire to facilitate the probe he might have provided information that might be beyond his personal knowledge that could expose him to legal action.

He stressed that while he stood by his belief that the contract was "gravely anomalous and grossly disadvantageous," he said he preferred that the Senate "explore and investigate" the deal "through other witnesses."

Young De Venecia's reluctance to return to the Senate came after his father reportedly agreed to a peace pact with the President.

P200-million bribe

Neri has been barred by Malacañang from giving further testimony to the Senate on his conversation with the President after he informed her of Abalos' alleged P200-million bribe offer.

Citing executive privilege, Neri refused to answer follow-up questions on whether the President ordered him to go ahead with the project despite his having told her of the alleged bribe attempt.

In his letter to the committee, Ermita, citing a Supreme Court decision, said that conversations between the President and public officials were considered executive privilege.

"Disclosure of conversations will have a chilling effect on the President and will hamper her in the effective discharge of her duties and responsibilities, if she is not protected by the confidentiality of her conversations," said Ermita.

Now, it's JDV facing probe in Senate for NorthRail deal

From page A1

ments and witnesses for concrete results," said Pimentel.

Reached by the INQUIRER for comment last night, De Venecia said: "Very good, let them (senators) investigate it. My only role and that of (President Macapagal-Arroyo) was to convince the Chinese government to undertake the project which had been abandoned for more than 30 years."

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has tagged De Venecia as the main lobbyist for the project which, he said, was exorbitantly priced—$503 million for a 32-kilometer railroad—and its terms skewed unfairly in favor of China, the loan source.

Without public bidding

Pimentel said the Speaker should explain why he brokered for a company that would build the railroad at $15.72 million per kilometer when a similar project from Caloocan City to Alabang by a South Korean firm would cost only $1.47 million.

With fresh insights into De Venecia's alleged behind-the-scenes brokering, Pimentel said it was about time the Speaker answered all the questions regarding NorthRail, including why it was given to China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (CNMEC) without a public bidding.

The senator said the project was a patently commercial transaction as described by the University of the Philippines Law Center in a study.

CNMEC does not have any track record in railway construction as it is primarily a trading firm selling construction machinery and electricity pumps, Pimentel said.

"This constitutes a clear breach of the Government Procurement Reform Act," he said.

The law, he said, stipulates that projects like this should go through a competitive public bidding "to enable the government to obtain the most advantageous terms and to avoid overpricing and other malpractices."

Enrile scores JDV

It was Enrile who first raised De Venecia's involvement in the course of the Senate inquiry into the NBN contract.

At yesterday's hearing on the shelved NBN project, Enrile scored De Venecia for the bumbling efforts of his "cohort" to cover up for the Speaker's "aggressive lobbying" for his son's company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), to win the deal.

The administration senator laughed off as "unbelievable" the testimony of AHI's Ernesto "Sonny" Garcia who claimed that he wrote a draft letter for the signature of Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza on his own, without prodding from De Venecia.

"I'm satisfied that, indeed, things like this happen when people are hiding behind the veil of anonymity," Enrile said. He noted Garcia's letter dated Dec. 4, 2006, telling Mendoza that "the office of the Speaker instructed me to forward the attached material to your [DOTC's] office, ASAP."

Mendoza did not sign the letter.

"You pretend that you do not know government processes which I do not believe because if you are dealing for 20 years in this line of business you'd know every gamut of this business," Enrile said.

Pulido complaint

The Speaker has repeatedly denied Pulido's allegations and once said that the lawyer was on a "rampage" when he filed a series of complaints against him and his son.

The complaint stemmed from the purported awarding of congressional franchises to the younger De Venecia's Multi-Media Telephony Inc., during his father's second term as Speaker in 1995 and 1996.

Upon receipt of the copy of the House ethics committee's ruling, De Venecia would be given 10 days to reply to the Pulido complaint.

Rep. Eleandro Madrona, ethics committee chair, said an "initial review" of the complaint would be conducted to determine its validity as a "subject matter."

In making the ruling, Madrona, a member of the majority coalition, raised the possibility that the complaint might backfire on Pulido. If the committee finds the lawyer guilty of misrepresentation, he may face sanctions, including disbarment, he said.

Forum shopping?

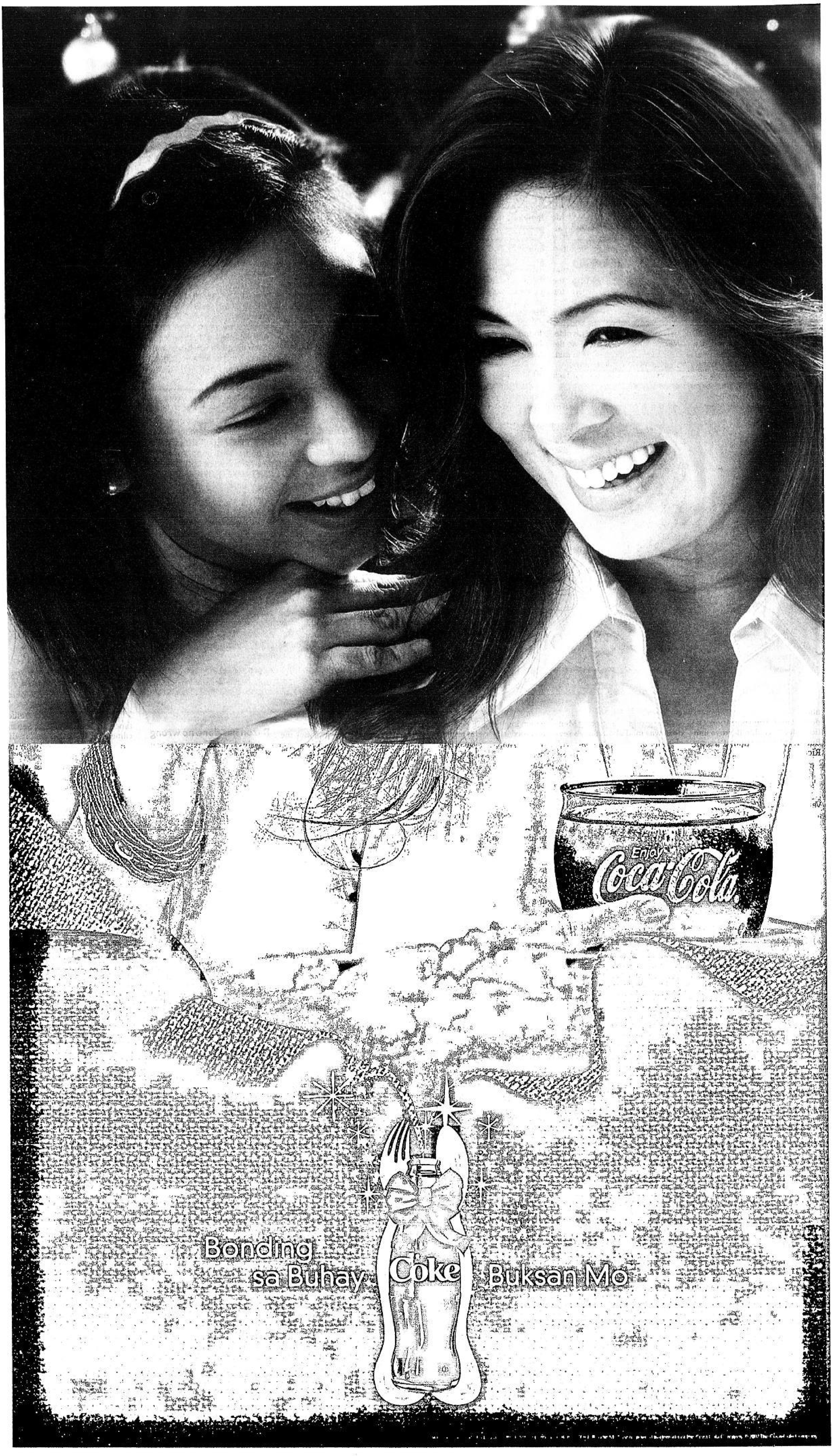
The lawmaker cited a media report that Pulido had also filed with the Ombudsman another complaint against the Speaker based on the congressional franchises purportedly awarded to his son.

Madrona pointed to the rule against the filing of multiple complaints (or "forum shopping") against the same official. Under the rules, he said, Pulido should have informed the committee about the Ombudsman case within five days after the ethics case had been filed.

Pulido yesterday denied that he was engaged in forum shopping, noting that the congressional case against De Venecia involved "a question of ethics" while the other one before the Ombudsman was criminal in nature.

Pulido said he had not told the committee about the other complaint because it was yet to inform him that it had taken jurisdiction over the case.

"I haven't heard from the committee since I filed the case," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I didn't even know that the committee had been organized and I didn't know that there was a hearing."


Enjoy Coca-Cola
Bonding sa Buhay
Coke
Buksan Mo

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROMO

2N SHANGHAI/2N SHENZHEN/1N HONGKONG Dep. Dec. 21		$239
1N SHANGHAI/1N BEIJING/1N SHENZHEN/1N HONGKONG Dep. Dec. 21		$399
1N MACAU/2N SHENZHEN/1N HONGKONG Dep. Dec. 22		$279
1N GUANGZHOU/1N SHENZHEN/1N HONGKONG Dep. Dec. 23		$169
1N GUANGZHOU/1N MACAU/1N HONGKONG Dep. Dec. 23		$339
1N HONGKONG/2N SHENZHEN Dep. Dec. 23		$179
2N HONGKONG/1N MACAU Dep. Dec. 23		$359
2N HONGKONG Dep. Dec. 26	$199	$229
1N HONGKONG/1N MACAU Dep. Dec. 26		$299
3N HONGKONG/1N SHENZHEN Dep. Dec. 26	$259	$299
2N HONGKONG/2N MACAU Dep. Dec. 26		$399
1N HONGKONG/2N SHANGHAI Dep. Dec. 26		$329

For inquiries and reservations, call:
- UNION TRAVEL - 525-3034 to 45; 524-3943 to 44
- TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL - 753-1121; 753-3388
- SKYNET TRAVEL - 400-0509 to 10; 521-7596; 522-1360
- SPARKLE HOLIDAYS - 303-7251 to 58; 303-7260
- YOYO HOLIDAY - 302-0717; 302-0718
- WINLINK TRAVEL - 522-9591; 525-6341; 522-5447; 404-1231; 522-7738

$1999 4Star Service Guaranteed Departure
COMPREHENSIVE HOLYLAND
Also Available Malaysia and India DISCOUNTED TOURS

HONGKONG	Barkada Package Via PAL 3 Days w/ Disney HK International	$225	SINGAPORE	3Days via PAL w/ City Tour min. 2 PAX	$208
AUSTRALIA	4Days via CATHAY	$790	VIETNAM	3Days Ho Chi Minh Tour w/ CuChi Tunnel via PAL	$305
BANGKOK	3 Days via PAL	$195	SHANGHAI	4 Days VIA PAL	$395
NEPAL	4Days with Tours via PAL	$790	SIEMREAP	Via BKK or SGN w/ 2 Full day Tours	$750

BAGUIO 3 Days P3,500
JAPAN 4 Days Tokyo and 4 star accommodation $1,500
LAOAG 3 Days P4,500
BORACAY 3 Days P6,490
CEBU 3 Days P6,100
PALAWAN 3 Days P4,650
BOHOL 3 Days P7,000
SIARGAO 3 Days P9,000

P950 SUMMER VACATION TREAT Full day family fun special per person rate
SIERRA MADRE COUNTRY CLUB & SPRING VALLEY Includes breakfast, lunch, dinner plus 2 snacks, unlimited coffee & use of club facilities (swim, golf, etc)

Other Destination: Great tours to USA, HAWAII, CANADA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, EUROPE, MALAYSIA, INDIA, BRUNEI, VIETNAM, GUAM, CHINA, SOUTH ASIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA, EASTERN EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN & MORE!

WORLD WINGS
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURS CORPORATION
Tels.: 448-6132 • 926-5804 • 926-5806 • 926-5817 • 926-5821
926-5849 • 926-5854 Cell: 0917-8474660 Fax: 926-5842
G/F K-Plaza, 18 Kamuning Road, QC (infront of Delgado Hospital)
Email: worldwings@worldwings.com.ph or worldwingsintl@yahoo.com
(OPEN ON SATURDAYS)

3 Filipinas rescued from Malaysia sex den

FILIPINAS WHO WERE FORCED to work as sex slaves in Malaysia were rescued last week through the efforts of the Office of the Vice President, the Philippine embassy in Kuala Lumpur, the Commission on Overseas Filipinos and the Filipino community there.

The three women were presented yesterday in a press conference by Vice President Noli de Castro whose help was sought by the victims. De Castro, presidential adviser on OFWs, said the three claimed they were being made to work at an alleged sex den in Labuan.

De Castro said the victims contacted their families here through mobile phones and informed them of their sufferings. Their families, in turn, sought the help of the Vice President.

De Castro just gave the first names of the victims as Vina, Angel and Elsa to protect their identities.

The three said they left the country on Nov. 2 after they were recruited by another Filipina to work as waitresses in Malaysia. He said the recuiter claimed to have connections with a Malaysian immigration officer.

According to the victims, they never had a chance to check with Philippine government agencies on the status of recruiter because they were in a hurry. They left Manila for Zamboanga, then took a ferry to Kota Kinabalu and Labuan.

De Castro said the victims were then referred to a Malaysian national who owns a karaoke lounge in Labuan, which is three hours away from the Malaysian capital. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Christmas Gifts That Bring Out
The Cheer Of The Season !
marubishi
HOME APPLIANCES
Available at Leading Appliance Stores & Department Stores.
The Wise Homemaker's Choice.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that **JT STARLINE VENTURES ("JT STARLINE")**, pursuant to an Agreement with **BIG DIPPER LASER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LIMITED ("BIG DIPPER")** of Shenzhen, China, is the exclusive and sole authorized importer and distributor in the Philippines of products manufactured and sold by **BIG DIPPER**, such as **LASER DISPLAY** and **MOVING HEAD LIGHTING EQUIPMENTS** under its corporate brands.

Seven Stars LASER DISPLAY SYSTEM

JT STARLINE is presently in the process of gathering oral and documentary evidence against those who, without its authority, have been importing, distributing, and selling the above specified products along with doubtful and inferior quality products, to the damage and prejudice of its business, goodwill and proprietary rights, under the exclusive distributorship agreement.

In this connection, stern **WARNING** is hereby given that any person, firm, corporation or entity unlawfully engaged in the parallel importation, distribution and sale of the above stated products without written authority from JT STARLINE, including those importing, distributing and selling inferior quality products using the brand **"BIG DIPPER"** and /or **"SEVEN STARS"** shall be prosecuted immediately for the appropriate criminal, civil, and/or administrative cases for unfair competition.

Please send the necessary information as to violation by erring parties of this warning, complete with details to **LUMANIOG & ASSOCIATES LAW FIRM** at tel. no. 749-6700 and fax no. 749-6699. Thereafter, you may claim special reward from JT STARLINE.

The *2008* Gawad Sinop Awards
Leadership and Excellence Deserve Recognition!

Gawad Sinop Awards is an annual, nationwide search for outstanding achievers in supply management. First conferred in 1994, the Foundation of the Society of Fellows in Supply Management (SOFSM) and the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) pay tribute to supply management professionals with commendable contribution in the practice of the profession.

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR
An annual, individual award that recognizes Supply Management practitioner who have exhibited outstanding achievements in the performance of the profession.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS:

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN PURCHASING

This award is presented to a purchasing practitioner with outstanding commitment to the profession of Purchasing by evidence of successful contribution to the bottom line as well as by support given to their collaborators in the field of Education and Training.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN DEMAND AND REPLENISHMENT

This award is presented to a demand and replenishment practitioner with outstanding commitment to the profession of demand and replenishment by evidence of successful contribution to the bottom line as well as by support given to their collaborators in the field of Education and Training.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN LOGISTICS OPERATIONS

This award is presented to logistics operations practitioner with outstanding commitment to the profession of logistics operations by evidence of successful contribution to the bottom line as well as by support given to their collaborators in the field of Education and Training.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

This award is presented to a customer service practitioner with outstanding commitment to the profession of customer service by evidence of successful contribution to the bottom line as well as by support given to their collaborators in the field of Education and Training.

CORPORATE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SUPPLY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

This corporate award is designed to provide recognition to corporation leading and promoting supply management as a strategic contributor, and thus, enhance the profession in the organization.

It will recognize leadership and innovation in supply management and further the understanding and importance of supply management to business success.

Nominations for the individual and/or corporate awards will have to be submitted to the Nomination and Screening Committee.

For individual award, information about the last two years career progress of the nominee, major contributions to the profession and significant accomplishments during the last two years of their career in supply management should be provided. For the corporate award, information on the significant supply chain development and/or best practices in their organization for the last two years should be provided.

Nomination forms are now available at the PISM Secretariat. You may contact Liza Ranon at 634-5942; 634-5955; e-mail at liza@pism.org or visit us online at www.pism.org

Deadline of submission is on or before January 11, 2008. Awarding will be on April 4, 2008 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ortigas. Send in your nominations now!

SOFSM FOUNDATION PISM
Unit 1706-A East Tower Phil. Stock Exchange Centre, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 634-5942; 634-5955; 638-4024 Fax No.: 634-6348
E-mail: secretariat@pism.org Website: www.pism.org

SKAL AWARD. Henry Sy Jr. (second from left) receives on behalf of his father, Henry Sy Sr., the "Special Citation Tourism Personality Award for Mall, Hotel and Resort Industry" given by SKAL International-Makati, a chapter of the worldwide organization of top professionals in the travel and tourism industries. Looking on are (from left) Robert Lim Joseph, SKAL Makati president; Skal tourism scholar Ariane Alivia and Roberto Hukom, SKAL Makati vice president. SKAL Makati recently celebrated its 26th anniversary and the 19th year of the Tourism Personality Awards.

Retail magazine cites SM

SM HAS BEEN NAMED THE Philippines' top retailer by the trade magazine Retail Asia in its recent Top 500 Awards held in Tokyo, Japan. This is the fourth straight year that SM has been cited by the regional magazine, which honored top retailers from 14 economies.

"All our award winners are in many ways the crème dela crème of companies of the region," said Steven HL Goh, executive chair of the Singapore-based Retail Asia Publishing PTE Ltd. "They embody the many great attributes of best practices and success drivers in retailing. We hope that they could in one way or another provide a source of inspiration for the many growing retail companies, big and small, across the Asia-Pacific region."

Other recipients of the Gold Award were Australia's Woolworths Limited, China's Gome Elecrical Appliances, Hong Kong's The Dairy Farm Group. India's Pantaloon Retail, Indonesia's Matahari, Japan's Seven & I Holding, and Malaysia's GCH Retail. New Zealand's Foodstuff, Singapore's Dairy Farm, South Korea's Lotte Shopping, Taiwan's President Chain Store, Thailand's CP Seven Eleven, and Vietnam's Saigon Co. were also on the list of star performers.

With its new directions to become a customer-driven and result-oriented company that focuses on teamwork and the entrepreneurial spirit, SM's Department Store chain is currently undertaking renovation works on its major stores to enhance the shopping experience, SM said in a press statement.

"We constantly innovate to give our customers in-store services beyond their shopping needs," said SM Inc. president Teresita Sy-Coson.

She said the new innovations in store design will be evident in the stores at the SM Supermalls in North Edsa, Megamall, and Bacoor. The new design of the Megamall store departs from the usual mass merchandise set-up, targeting more upscale customers by offering better brands with emphasis on retail excitement.

To date, SM has 31 department stores, 29 supermarkets, 9 hypermarkets 37 appliance centers, 17 home stores 20 toy superstores, 31 fashion discount stores, 14 sports stores, two baby specialty stores, and four stores showcasing Philippines products.

SM also has 34 ACE Hardware stores, a franchise of US Base ACE Hardware; and 169 Watsons stores, a joint ventures with the Hutchison-Whampoa Group of Hongkong. Marionnaud, an upscale cosmetics store affiliated with the AS Watsons Group, opened its first store at Mall of Asia last year.

Olongapo 'mardi gras' highlights Ad Congress

A THREE-DAY "MARdi Gras" WILL roll down Olongapo City streets for the duration of the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Mayor James Gordon Jr. said the mardi gras will showcase the best of Olongapo's entertainment circuit to some 5,000 Ad Congress delegates and visitors who will converge on Subic on Nov. 22-24.

A parade and street dancing to be participated in by youth groups and socio-civic organizations will open the festivities while live bands will stage nightly concerts on Magsaysay Avenue, the city's entertainment strip.

Sponsors are the Olongapo Business Club and the City Tourism Office. Olongapo's beach resorts and restaurants have started preparations for the big event.

Sammy del Rosario, OBC president, said the mardi gras will be a grand celebration to give Ad Congress delegates a feel of the Olongapo experience.

"We are excited and ready to roll out the carpet of hospitality and warmth to our visitors," Del Rosario said.

Gordon revealed that the last day of the Ad Congress will coincide with the 15th anniversary of the pullout of the US Navy from Subic and the creation of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

This year's Ad Congress theme, "The New Order," complements the city's slogan, "Fighting for Excellence," Gordon said, pointing out this is the second time since 1993 Olongapo is hosting the Ad Congress.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
APAC IC LAYOUT CONSULTANT, INC. Unit 1508 Richville Corporate Tower, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jerome Avondo American	Chairman of the Board/President
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Haibin He Chinese	Technical Staff
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Rong Pan Chinese	Technical Staff
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. Suite C, 15/F Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Md. Abdur Rahim Sarker Bangladeshi	Manager/Team Member
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. Suite C, 15/F Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Md. Shahinur Rahman Bangladeshi	Manager/Team Member
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. Suite C, 15/F Strata 2000 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Md. Rokon Uzzaman Bangladeshi	Manager/Team Member
EMERSON NETWORK POWER (PHILIPPINES) INC. 7/F King's Court Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Por Lau Chinese	Managing Director
OHSUNG TRAVEL & TOURS AGENCY, INC. Unit 13-8137 Plaza J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Sunhee Kim Korean	Operations Manager
IWEBMASTERS.COM, INC. 27/F Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Michael Sonderhoj Danish	IT Director
WEPHONE ONLINE, INC. Unit A, 21/F Strata 2000 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Ji Young Kim Korean	General Manager
MASINLOC POWER PARTNERS CO. LTD. 28/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jasper Lisandro Camacho American	Manager
CHEONG SOL ACADEMY CORPORATION Prime Center Bldg., Prime Center St., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Bo Young Lee (wife of Cho) Korean	General Manager
NARA 9 NETWORK SYSTEM, INC. 101 Quirino Ave., Baclaran, Parañaque City	Mingcan Gao Chinese	Assistant Manager
NARA 9 NETWORK SYSTEM, INC. 101 Quirino Ave., Baclaran, Parañaque City	Chuen Lam Hui Chinese	Sales Consultant
NARA 9 NETWORK SYSTEM, INC. 101 Quirino Ave., Baclaran, Parañaque City	Fung Yung Hung Chinese	Supervisor
NOOLIAN TRADING CORPORATION Unit 38K Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Ilhak Yun Korean	Marketing Manager
NOOLIAN TRADING CORPORATION Unit 38K Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Juwon Park (wife of Doo) Korean	Managing Partner
24HRS CAR CENTER CORP. 8418 Sucat Rd., Goodwill II, Brgy. BF, Parañaque City	Qi Lin Chinese	Operation Manager
BANGKOK GLOBAL PHILS., INC. Unit 604 Cityland 10 Tower 2, H.V. dela Costa cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Surachet Khanachareon Thai	Management Consultant
JUNBRY ENTERPRISES, INC. 8/F 139 Corporate Center, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Woo Young Lim Korean	Sales and Operations Manager
YOW SEN MARINE EXPORT 5 McDonough Rd., Quirino Ave., Tambo, Parañaque City	Tin Wai Kwok Chinese	Technical Consultant
INT'L. GOLDEN RESOURCES INVESTMENTS & DEVELOPMENT CORP. U-1206-B West Tower, Phil. Stock Exchange, Exchange Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Lingmiao Feng Chinese	System Analyst
AIT GAMING PRODUCTS TRADING Chengtsaijun Bldg., 533 Quirino Ave., Tambo, Parañaque City	Kentaro Azuma Japanese	President

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI-November 21, 2007)

LEGALIZE YOUR SOFTWARE BY NOV. 30!

AND GET THE BEST PRICES ON GENUINE MICROSOFT SOFTWARE.

VISIT YOUR NEAREST COMPUTER RESELLER TODAY.

cti - Columbia Technologies, Inc.
Tel No. (632) 524-0393 loc 604

COMPlink
Tel No. (632) 687-1234

DIGITAL
Tel No. (082) 221-1256

MICROGENESIS Business Systems
Tel No. (632) 750-7000

Tel No. (632) 889-2800

microphase
Tel No. (632) 812-8814

NG KHAI
Tel No. (032) 346-2926

NORTHGATE TECHNOLOGIES, INC
Tel No. (632) 893-2343

OCTAGON
Tel No. (632) 526-7152

PCEXPRESS
Tel No. (632) 725-8888

Tel No. (632) 898-3354 to 57

SILICON VALLEY
Tel No. (632) 371-6868

TCA
Tel No. (632) 914-1270 / 73

THINKING TOOLS
Tel No. (032) 254-2227

VillMan
Tel No. (632) 892-2222

xitrix
Tel No. (632) 926-8279

ZENSHIN Systems Corporation
Tel No. (632) 365-0536 loc 149

Message from the PNA President

SA UTAK NAKASALALAY, SIGLA AT PAG-ASA NG BUHAY
National Neurology Week – Presidential Proclamation No. 1408

The dream was conceived in 2006. The purpose of having the National Neurology week is to heighten awareness and understanding of the neurological illnesses and their sequelae, through effective health education and optimal health promotion. Likewise, we hope this would pave the way for efficacious collaboration between the PNA, the DOH, the DSWD and other government and non-government sectors.

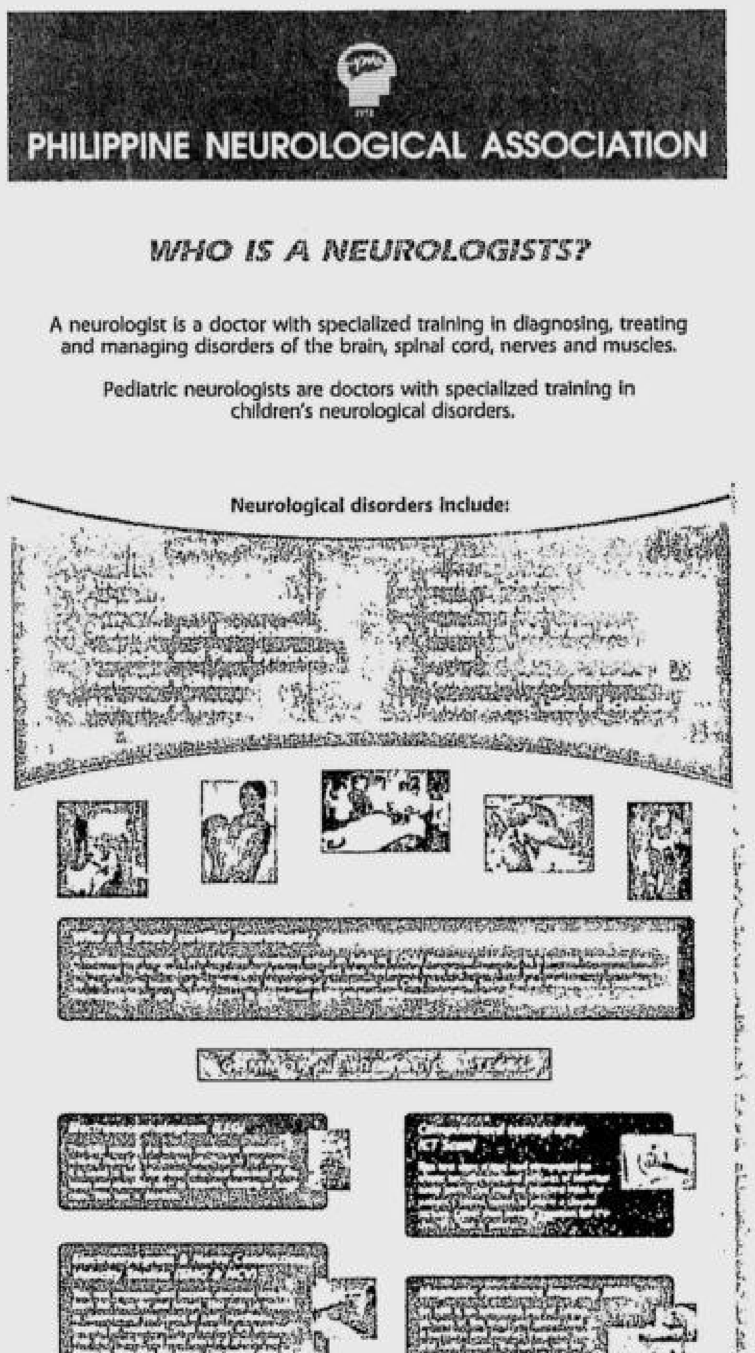
The proposal for Executive Order was drafted and through the whole-hearted support of Dr. Esperanza Cabral, the proposal found its way to Malacañang. A series of hitches surfaced and then solutions seemingly presented themselves. Imagine, in the absence of Sec. Ermita, the one designated to sign in his behalf was in the lobby of Makati Medical Center! Moreover, Press Secretary Bunye was introduced to me. I seized the chance to seek for an endorsement! Even when the approval of the proposal was not yet a certainty, the Board of Governors was preparing silently for its eventuality. Just as when we were about to call off the preparations for a public proclamation, the Executive Order was signed by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The founding members, presidents, fellows and associate members were then informed of the Proclamation No. 1408.

There is also a very good reason why we should have this- it has a unifying effect. Neurologist, regardless of any sub-specialty affiliation will gather and in unison will proclaim our commitment to be of service to the Filipino people.

Mabuhay ang PNA!

2007 PNA Board of Governors, Dr. Raquel M. Alvarez (president), Johnny K. Lokin (vice president), Godfrey T. Robeniol (secretary), Glicerio C. G. Alincastre (treasurer), Drs. Raul T. Gardaya, Herminigildo H. Gan, Annette D. G. Bautista (board of directors), and Raymond L. Rosales (immediate past president).

Raquel M. Alvarez, MD, FPNA
President
Philippine Neurological Association



PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

WHO IS A NEUROLOGISTS?

A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscles.

Pediatric neurologists are doctors with specialized training in children's neurological disorders.

Neurological disorders include:

Citicoline
Zynapse
Natrapharm - Patriot Group

PNA to celebrate its Coral Anniversary

For 35 years, the state of Philippine Neuroscience has aimed its excellence in its field, and there is no better way to commemorate this brilliance by way of a scientific annual convention.

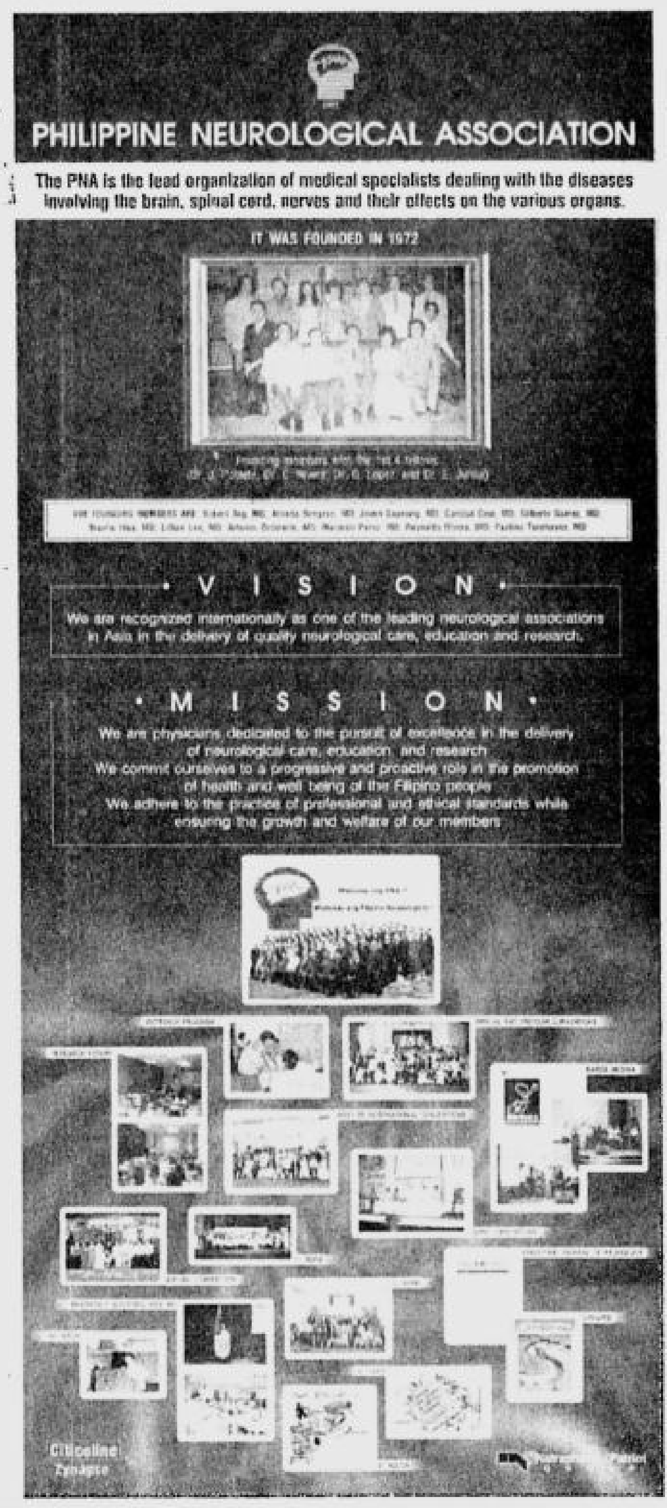
The Philippine Neurological Association will be holding its 29th annual convention at the Xavier Estates in Cagayan de Oro (CDO) from November 21 to 24, 2007.

The annual event, with its theme "Philippine Neuroscience: A 35-Year Odyssey in Achieving Quality Education, Research and Healthcare Delivery", will showcase the value of neuroscience education with a well-balanced program designed for the PNA fellows, its members and guests during the convention.

The conference will boast of Post-graduate courses in both Adult and Pediatric Neurology, Plenary sessions on Movement Disorder, Neurobehavioral Issues, Stroke and Critical Care. Moreover, the event will be punctuated by the 5th Gilberto L. Gamez Memorial Lecture, plus the inclusion of the Neuroscience Collaboration and Neurology Crossfire.

Invited guests from the ASEAN neuroscience community will also talk on the prevalent neurological issues in their respective countries. A session on Contemporary Issues in Neuroscience, which will focus on "pre-operative risk assessment of patients with stroke, epilepsy and neuromuscular disorders" will be an innovative addition in this year's education program.

The backdrop of the convention will be the exciting and picturesque Cagayan de Oro. It should be challenging for the delegates to enjoy and appreciate the host of activities the "City of Golden Friendship" is best known for.



PHILIPPINE NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The PNA is the lead organization of medical specialists dealing with the diseases involving the brain, spinal cord, nerves and their effects on the various organs.

IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1972

• V I S I O N •

We are recognized internationally as one of the leading neurological associations in Asia in the delivery of quality neurological care, education and research.

• M I S S I O N •

We are physicians dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the delivery of neurological care, education and research.
We commit ourselves to a progressive and proactive role in the promotion of health and well being of the Filipino people.
We adhere to the practice of professional and ethical standards while ensuring the growth and welfare of our members.

MALACAÑANG
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 1408

DECLARING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 12 TO 17, 2007, AS "NATIONAL NEUROLOGY WEEK"

WHEREAS, the Philippine Neurological Association is the lead organization dealing with the disease of the nervous system and is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the delivery neurological care, education and research for the promotion of health and well-being;

WHEREAS, there is a need to have a heightened awareness and understanding of the neurological illness and its sequelae, through effective health education and optimal health promotion;

WHEREAS, in order to improve the information drive on neurological illnesses and the accessible care that can help those afflicted, it is proper to commemorate a "National Neurology Week" that will benefit the numerous patients nationwide from the simultaneous outreach activities to be done in identified communities in the country, such as provision of neurological services, conduct of scientific activities and other advocacy programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare November 12-17, 2007 as the "**National Neurology Week**".

Active multi-sector involvement, primarily form the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development and the different non-government sectors, together with the Philippine Neurological Association, is hereby urged to ensure success of this commemoration.

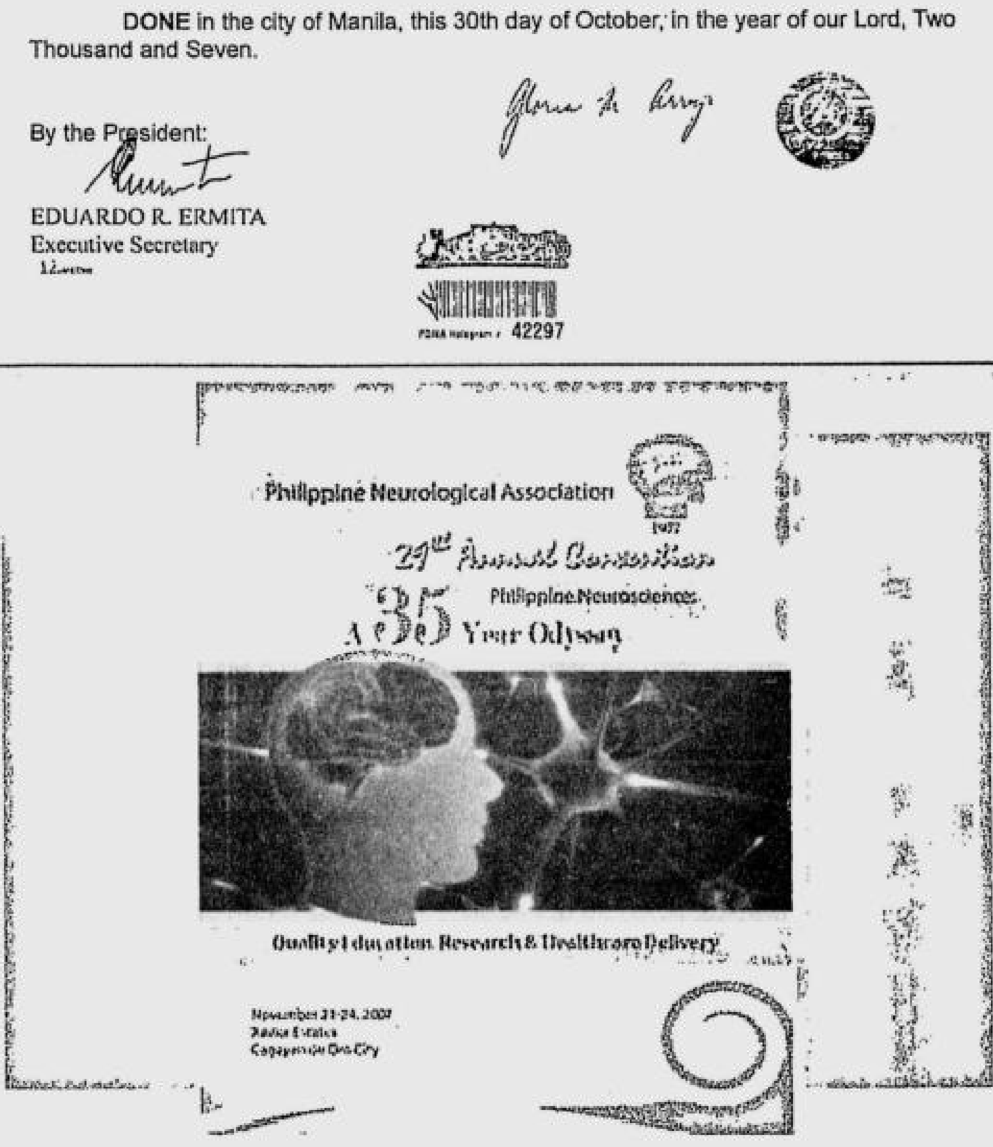
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

DONE in the city of Manila, this 30th day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

By the President:

EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary

42297



Philippine Neurological Association

29th Annual Convention

Philippine Neuroscience:
A 35 Year Odyssey

Quality Education, Research & Healthcare Delivery

November 21-24, 2007
Xavier Estates
Cagayan de Oro City

compliments of:

Saguisag wanted GMA to take stand in coup trial

By DJ Yap

LAWYER RENE SAGUISAG WAS IN THE midst of efforts to get President Macapagal-Arroyo to appear at the coup d'etat trial of the junior military officers accused in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny when he met the road accident in Makati City on Nov. 8.

The accident at the intersection of Osmeña Highway and Arnaiz Avenue killed his wife Dulce and injured their driver Felipe Calvario and dance instructress Rhea Obong.

Saguisag now lies in the intensive care unit of the Makati Medical Center where he underwent three medical procedures on Monday.

"He's doing very well," said Dr. Eric Nubla, chief of MMC's patient relations office.

"Attorney Saguisag is resting in his ICU room and remains in stable condition after undergoing preventive procedures," a medical bulletin issued yesterday by Nubla said.

The procedures included a tracheotomy which put Saguisag back on respirator support after he experienced difficulty breathing on his own.

The other procedures involved replacement of the chest tube that drains fluid from his left lung and the insertion of a caval filter to remove blood clots in his lower extremities.

Saguisag's driver, Felipe Calvario, on the other hand, has been in a regular room since Sunday and is scheduled to begin physical therapy soon, Nubla said.

The doctor said the rehabilitation was to ensure Calvario would be in good physical condition when he regains full consciousness.

"It will be gradual. On the first day he will do basic exercises. It will be passive, or the physiotherapist will be doing it for him," Nubla said.

Earlier, Dr. Victor Alvarez, the neurosurgeon looking after Saguisag and Calvario, said the driver was not yet completely awake.

"He moves and opens his eyes but he doesn't recognize people," he said.

A Makati City judge had rejected Saguisag's plea for a subpoena to be issued to President Macapagal-Arroyo in the Oakwood case, and the former senator was in the process of appealing the decision when the accident happened where a dump truck rammed into the Saguisags' van at the intersection in the early morning.

Saguisag's son, Rebo, himself a lawyer, has appealed to Judge Oscar Pimentel to postpone the hearings until his father was better.

"It is a very sensitive issue that only he can handle," Rebo said in an interview in the MMC lobby on Monday.

"So we are hoping for the understanding of the court, and we do believe the judge will see merit in our urgent motion," he added.

In the urgent motion dated Nov. 12, Saguisag's client, 1st Lt. Nathaniel Rabonza, sought the postponement of his lawyer's presentation of evidence to February or March 2008.

Swift justice costs money – SC

IF YOU WANT A faster and secure justice system, don't scrimp on funds for the judiciary.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno has urged Congress to give a bigger chunk of the national budget to the Supreme Court to make the courts run more smoothly.

Puno said the Supreme Court only gets ".8 percent of the national budget" at present.

Speaking at a briefing at a Unesco meeting last Monday, Puno said the high court asked Congress for P4 billion more, but was not granted its wish.

Congress has only given the Supreme Court P10.34 billion in the 2008 allocations, he said.

At .84 percent of the national budget, it is the lowest budget allocation in recent years, the high court's public information office said.

In 2007, the Supreme Court budget was .87 percent of the total budget of P1.12 trillion, and in previous years, it was over one percent, it said. *Kristine L. Alave*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 22, 2007
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
Cecilia

1st Reading:	1 Mac 2:15-29
Gospel:	Luke 19:41-44

When Jesus had come in sight of the city, he wept over it and said, "If only today you knew the ways of peace! But now your eyes are held from seeing. Yet days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you with barricades and shut you in and press on you from every side. And they will dash you to the ground and your children with you, and leave not a stone within you, for you did not recognize the time and the visitation of your God."

Commentary

Mattathias and his sons, as leaders in the community, are urged to disobey so that the people will follow and so that they will be friends of the king, given bribes and will eventually become rich. But he refuses. And he kills someone who breaks the covenant and he also kills the messenger of the king. This is not faithfulness, but political/religious war/revolt. It may be zeal, but it is misplaced. To preserve his life, he flees into the desert along with his sons and several others. This is the earlier covenant, ancient history with primitive responses to equally harsh and brutal powers. But it is not anything like Jesus' response to such violence (the Romans occupying Israel throughout his lifetime). Jesus, the prophet and the obedient servant of God, weeps over the city of Jerusalem who slaughters the prophets (much like the twisted zeal of those who think that killing their enemies makes them acceptable to God). The result will be destruction and more killing. Those who belong to God in Jesus must weep and mourn but not harm anyone else no matter what happens in history.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

Panasonic®
PABX Telephone System
- Call Transfer
- Music-On-Hold
- Call Privacy
- Intercom

INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77
Visit our website at www.infinitesystems.net

Happy Holidays!
INTERNATIONAL PACKAGE

4D/3N HKG+DISNEY	$270	3D/2N MACAU	$288
3D/2N BANGKOK	$183	4D/3N SHANGHAI	$299
4D/3N BKK+PATTAYA	$268	4D/3N BEIJING	$385
3D/2N SINGAPORE	$275	4D/3N KUALA	$356
4D/3N SIN/KUL/INDO	$368	4D/3N KUL+GENTING	$388
3D/2N JAKARTA	$306	3D/2N LAOS	$620

AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES

TICKET FARES (RT)		DOMESTIC PACKAGES	
TOKYO	$447	3D/2N PALAWAN	P6,500
SYDNEY	$548	3D/2N BORACAY	P5,800
YVR	$645	3D/2N CEBU	P7,200
LAX/SFO/SEA	$595	3D/2N BOHOL	P5,450
PARIS	$747	3D/2N CAMIGUIN	P8,600
HNL	$625	3D/2N ILOCOS	P4,900
First Time Immig. Fares & Other International Tickets		and other Domestic Packages Domestic Tickets also available	

SPECIAL PROMO: BUY 2 TAKE 1 Have 2 U.S. Visa Assistance and Get 1 Passport Processing FREE!
Other Services: Passporting, Documentation and Immigration Assistance, Travel Insurance, Transportation Rental
LOT FOR SALE RODEO VILL. TAGAYTAY /LOT FOR SALE! 375 SQ M
Visit or call us now for inquiries:
ROYAL WINGLINKS Travel and Tours
Unit 105 Vareb Mansion 1879 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. nos.: 527-8140 • 528-4001 • 528-0057 • 494-4977 Mobile: (0917) 525-0077
email: info@royalwinglinks.com.ph • royal_winglinks@yahoo.com

United Tree LENDING CORP
2%CAR/TRUCK LOAN
YR. MODEL 1992-2007
PAY-OFF PAST DUE W/BANK
1 HOUR RELEASE
656-0140/4112547-48/531-5577
PASIG QUEZON CITY MANDALUYONG

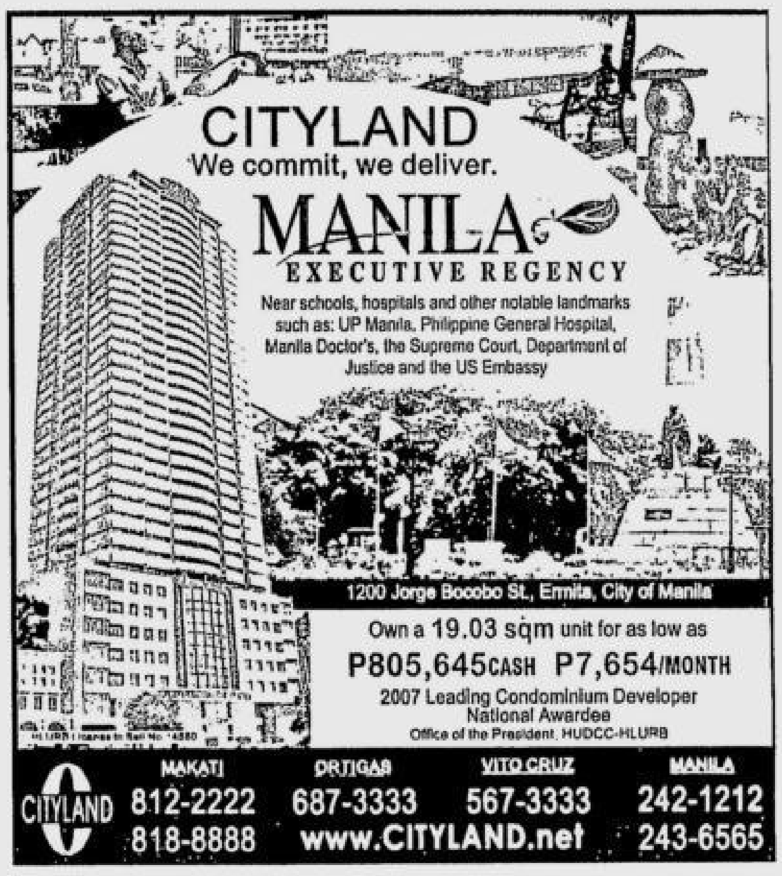
YOUR COPIER SOURCE
Ho! Ho! Ho! Deals!
Canon NP6050 50 cpm P 55,000.00
Ricoh FT-3013 13 cpm P 14,000.00
SALES • SERVICE • SUPPLIES
COPYTRADE®
749.8155 to 56 • 781.3472 • 749.8216
Copytrade Bldg. 550 M.F. Jhocson St., Sampaloc, Manila

3D HongKong SZX/ CAN pkg US$ 135	3D HongKong Free & Easy US$ 147	4D HongKong / Macau package US$ 150
3D HongKong Disneydaytour US$ 163	3D HongKong SZX / Macau pkg US$ 170	3D HongKong Overnight in Disney US$ 231
3D BANGKOK Package US$ 170	4D BANGKOK Package US$ 180	3D SINGAPORE Package US$ 220
4D SINGAPORE Package US$ 244	4D SHANGHAI Package US$ 272	4D BEIJING Package US$ 330

SUNBRIGHT TOURS & TRAVEL
Room 602, Manila Pavilion Hotel, U.N. Avenue, Ermita, Manila 1000
4040356 TO 58 / 5234226 / 5235830 / 5244246
5236201 / 4042176 / 4042132 Fax: 5251499
suntravel@pacific.net.ph / image@amadeusph.com
Business Permit No. 2006-22253

idec
AIR RECONDITIONING
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted Aircon
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted Aircon 3hp P39,500,4hpP52,000 6hp P65,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000, 5hp P85,000
Free Installation!
Available at Ortigas & Macapagal, Home Depot Call: 3091265,2432610,2414731 09177949874, Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821 www.idec-aircon.com

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,700 Commando 707 1500 PSI/2.5 HP With Complete Accessories High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS Now Only P39,500
AR-2200 2200 PSI, Pro.
TRX 1900 PSI, Pro.
Golden Jet 2900 PSI, 7.2 KW, Pro.
Idrolava 1200 W, Pro
Guaranteed The Lowest Price In The Market
INDUSTRIAL HIGH PRESSURE WASHER UP TO 7000 PSI AVAILABLE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5245290 • 5244328 • 5240529
Sun Cellular: 0922-8825326 • 0917-7896670
646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709


CITYLAND
We commit, we deliver.
MANILA EXECUTIVE REGENCY
Near schools, hospitals and other notable landmarks such as: UP Manila, Philippine General Hospital, Manila Doctor's, the Supreme Court, Department of Justice and the US Embassy
1200 Jorge Bocobo St., Ermita, City of Manila
Own a 19.03 sqm unit for as low as
P805,645CASH P7,654/MONTH
2007 Leading Condominium Developer National Awardee
Office of the President, HUDCC-HLURB
CITYLAND MAKATI 812-2222 818-8888 ORTIGAS 687-3333 VITO CRUZ 567-3333 MANILA 242-1212 243-6565
www.CITYLAND.net

PRINT SHOP in a BOX
Amazing color printer lets you "do-it-yourself" all printing needs.
Brochures
Flyers
ID cards
Labels
Stickers
Newsletters
Pamphlets
Letterheads
Stationeries
Transparencies
Business cards
and a lot more...
DocuPrint C525 A Color Laser Printer
Fuji Xerox superior color can help you stand out from the crowd.
'Print shop in a box' delivers everything you need for immediate productivity. Produce vivid and high impact professional looking outputs every time. Fuji Xerox superior color lets you capture attention, enhance productivity and improve communication.
Gain all the benefits of a leading edge print-on-demand technology packed in one box at a break-through price.
25 ppm black 5 ppm color
THE DOCUMENT COMPANY FUJI XEROX
Present coupon to avail promo.
Color you want 50% OFF Color you can afford!
DocuPrint C2090 FS Color Laser Copier Print • Copy • Scan • Fax ~~P69,000~~ P31,450
DocuPrint C525 A Color Laser Printer ~~P26,000~~ P13,450
Promo period is from November 15 to 30, 2007
Distributed by: American Technologies, Inc. • Tel. 7230801 to 12 • Fax: 723 7951 • Website www.ati.com.ph

MANSMITH AND FIELDERS, INC.
December 2007 Course Offerings
JOSIAH GO'S
STRATEGIC MARKETING:
ANALYZING INDUSTRY AND OPPORTUNITIES
DECEMBER 4, 2007 (8:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M),
MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, MAKATI CITY

Formulating marketing strategy must be aligned and coherent with corporate strategy. Learn the language of top management in evaluating and redirecting industry's profitability and in spotting opportunities.

OTHER SEMINARS:

7TH CLIENT-CENTRIC SELLING BY ROWEN UNTIVERO (DEC. 4-5, 2007)
This seminar introduces updated selling philosophies and processes that address the rise of the "active buyer". It provides solutions to selling issues in the new environ; relegates inapplicable old methods to the archives while validating and enhancing continuing effective practices.

19TH MARKETING AND SALES IMPLEMENTATION BY JOSIAH GO (DEC. 6-7, 2007)
Remove the guess work out of execution and bring your marketing strategy to life. In just 2 days, learn more than you would from several years of trial-and-error.

8TH MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL DISTRIBUTOR OPERATION BY EMILIO MACASAET III (DEC. 6-7, 2007)
This 2-day seminar will provide participants valuable and applicable insights on how to strengthen the distributor-principal relationship for better and long-term results. Implementing guidelines to successful service strategies will be discussed and highlighted in case studies and workshops to enhance the training sessions.

2ND PLACE: THE MISSING PIECE IN THE MARKETING PLAN BY EMILIO MACASAET III (DEC. 11, 2007)
This one-day seminar teaches participants how to develop a place or distribution strategy in preparing a marketing plan as most marketing people fail to prepare for this task since this is often thought to be the responsibility of sales.

For complete 2007 schedule of seminars, course outlines, fees, group discounts and other inquiries, please visit our website at www.mansmith.net, email info@mansmith.net, text 0918-81-168-88 or call Alice Torres at telefax nos. (02) 722-2318 / 727-7142.

Platinum Sponsor: ABENSON
Official Media Partners: BusinessWorld www.bworldonline.com INQUIRER.net INQUIRER

MANSMITH
Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.
Helping your marketing and sales teams soar!
#14 Ilang-ilang St., GF Waters Center, New Manila, Quezon City 1112 www.mansmith.net

Palace blames WB's internal row, says $232-M

From page A1

result of the changes in [its] leadership."

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the purported irregularities that compromised the soft loan were a result of flaws in the World Bank's own procurement system.

"Assuming it's true, we see it as the best opportunity for the Philippine government and the World Bank to strengthen their relationship. The corruption that they're referring to, it's because of their system, not ours," Andaya said on the sidelines of a press briefing on the government's latest fiscal report.

"It's their system that allowed an alleged rigging or collusion of bidders," he said.

In a separate press conference, Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the situation was "not as bad" as it seemed.

"There have been many reports that the World Bank had disapproved the loan," Ebdane observed. He stressed that the World Bank had only set aside discussions on the second phase of the Philippines' National Road Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP) until the agency's investigators came up with a final report on the issue.

He expressed hope that the inquiry would yield positive results.

Collusion, overprice

Jim Adams, World Bank vice president for the East Asia and Pacific Region, had earlier cited "strong signs of collusion and excessive pricing" to justify the deferment.

In response, Malacañang had said it would seek a reconsideration of the agency's decision. But it also said the Arroyo administration was open to local funding or loans from other multilateral donor agencies to complete the road projects before 2010.

In a phone call late yesterday, Remonde said Adams had issued a statement from Washington early in the day saying: "During the first phase of the [NRIMP], the government made major progress toward putting in place a modern, transparent and accountable national road management system."

Adams said 90 percent of the project goals was achieved in the Philippines: 382 kilometers of roads were built or upgraded and 975 km of existing roads resurfaced and maintained. But in 2003, "signs of procurement problems" in the first phase of the NRIMP were identified.

"The rejected contracts, worth $33 million, representing about 10 percent of the total project cost, were never financed by the World Bank," he said.

According to Remonde, Adams said in the statement that "the World Bank continues to support the Philippines and remains actively engaged with government and civil society on strengthening governance and fighting corruption."

Thus, Remonde said, the Arroyo administration and the World Bank were "continuing to address the common issues together."

This was what World Bank Philippines spokesperson Leonora Aquino-Gonzales said in a statement:

"I think a lot has been said by the World Bank yesterday (Monday) and the [Philippine] government today (Tuesday). And everything has happened so fast and loads of information [on] this issue and project have been put in the public arena.

"At this time, the World Bank and the government continue to work together to analyze the information received to help us move forward with our engagement."

Ombudsman

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings in April, he was briefed about the inquiry then being conducted by the bank's internal investigations unit, the Department of Institutional Integrity (INT).

Teves said he had asked the INT to proceed with its inquiry and to involve the Philippines' Ombudsman in the process.

"I suggested we get the Ombudsman involved because [it is] the body that could be construed as fair and [it is] clothed with independence because [it is] a constitutional body. So that was taken into account," Teves said.

He said the Ombudsman eventually a
to take the
ing the matt
man is takin
this and [is]
on it. At this
rather allow
to take due
tion, and res
of the proces
the Ombuds
work on this.

Like Ebdan
World Bank
the soft loan
ed to dig de
ter.

"I guess t
satisfy them
necessary sa
provements
nished," Tev

"But kind
count what
said. He beli
tem is a bett
any other s
ways room t
And we rec
said.

Both Anda
the defer
$232-million
dent the gov
tructure pro

Andaya s

EBDANE: Beggars can't be choosers.

PICHAY: Fore
collusion.

Senator warns of

From page A1

establishment of a civil society-led "Road Watch" group to promote transparency and integrity in the bidding for road projects.

In a phone interview, former Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said road projects were indeed laced with corruption, but blamed foreign contractors for the deferment of the World Bank loan. *(See banner story on Page A1.)*

Pichay's former turf covers the Marihatag-Barobo, Tagbina-Hinatuan section in Surigao del Sur, one of three projects in the National Road Improvement and Management Program where there had been a failure of bidding.

According to Pichay, Chinese and other foreign bidders were to blame for the "collusion" cited by the World Bank.

He said the road projects were "relatives of NorthRail," referring to the allegedly overpriced rail project obtained through a concessional loan from China and awarded to a Chinese government subsidiary.

The $503-million NorthRail project, which spans about 80 kilometers, is considered a flagship project of the Arroyo administration. It is intended to boost economic growth in Central Luzon.

Narrowing options

Pimentel said that after years of failing to act on worsening corruption, Ms Arroyo now had "narrowing" options.

"She must address the corruption issue that has been universally condemned by financial institutions on whom we rely for all kinds of support in time of need. The message is for her to shape up or ship out," said Pimentel, one of the signatories to a manifesto calling for the resignation of both Ms Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro and the holding of "snap" elections.

Sen. Loren Legarda said her committee on economic affairs would likely look into the real causes of the deferment of the World Bank l
ongoing inqu
tion of offici
sistance (OD

"We need t
we can pass
tion providin
use of so-ca
loans. Safeg
bursement o
to prevent c
sure account

Legarda ha
quiry into O
wake of such
the National
work project.
the NBN pro
to China's Z
since been c
royo becaus
tions.

No choice

Senate Pre
lar said the c
obligation to
ferred loan b
of corruptio
ic.

"We have
look into thi
said.

Sen. Benig
scribed the W
as an "eye o
finally push
concrete acti
ly ignoring t
rupt deals un
ministration.

Aquino sai
ferred loan.
was shown t
little in addr
tion problem.

He said thi
main reason
had not tric
masses.

Roxas call
tion from Ma

"The exec
not be seen
rigging of p
multilateral
as the Worl
loans that e
shouldered b
ple," he said.

Roxas also
Works Secre
Ebdane to ma
ings of an in
reportedly

Be anything but obvious
Ferri
TUDOR

CLASSIC

Self-winding mechanical movement. Fluted bezel in yellow gold. Sapphire crystal, screw-down crown. Waterproof to 100 m. Steel and yellow gold. Case 38 mm.

TUDORWATCH.COM

TUDOR

For information or service, please contact the Tudor Service Centre: Corinthian Plaza, G/F, 121 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City Tel: 811 3320

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

oan deferment could be collateral damage

ıigned a deputy
ıld ih investigat-
r: "The Ombuds-
ų cognizance of
already working
point, we would
the Ombudsman
course, take ac-
pect, the integrity
. We should give
an some time to

, Teves said the
ad not scrapped
nd merely want-
er into the mat-

ey just want to
selves that the
guards and im-
have been fur-
said.
v take into ac-
ecretary Andaya
ves our own sys-
system, but like
stem, there's al-
r improvement.
gnize that," he

a and Teves said
ent of the
loan would not
rnment's infras-
am.
id. the govern-

ment was anyway set to wipe out its budget deficits next year, suggesting greater elbow room in its own infrastructure spending.

Approved budget ceiling

In its report on the deferment of the loan, the World Bank cited procurement problems that had led to the failure of the bidding for three road projects.

These were the Marihatag-Barobo, Tagbina-Hinatuan section in Surigao del Sur, and the San Enrique-Valle Hermosa Road and Kabancalan-Basay Road, both in Negros Occidental.

"Among the issues to be resolved is the compliance with the approved budget ceiling (ABC), as required by the World Bank," Ebdane said.

He said each of the bids in question was above the ABC, thus leading to the eventual failure of the bidding process.

But Ebdane said the World Bank had recently approved a project with a bid amount that was above the ABC.

"We are crossing our fingers that the World Bank would decide in favor of the loan because foreign-funded projects are not bound by local laws that mandate bidding to stay within the approved budget for contracts," he said.

Ebdane said he later decided to cancel the bidding "to remove the root cause of the problem" and look for local funding.

"Beggars cannot be choosers. We are really not in any position to demand anything because we are the ones requesting the funds," he said.

Palace inquiry

In a separate interview, Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said Malacañang ordered its own investigation as a result of Ebdane's statement that he had "ordered the cancellation [of the bidding] because he's convinced of rigging."

The investigation being spearheaded by Remonde, chair of the Palace-created Pro-Performance Monitoring Team, is necessary to obtain evidence, Apostol said.

He said the result of the investigation would have to be filed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

But Ebdane said the second phase of the NRIMP—which entails the construction and rehabilitation of 1,102 km of roads—was very "important and immediate."

"We are looking into local funding from the road users' tax to start the second phase," Ebdane said, adding that the Department of Public Works and Highways had a P900-million budget to start the program in 2008.

"Insofar as delays are concerned, we have been delayed by three years because of the World Bank's changing requirements," he said, adding that the projects announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address had been affected.

'Punching bag'

As far as Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is concerned, the government, through Teves, should ask the World Bank to clarify the basis for the deferment of the loan.

"I think the secretary of finance, who attends World Bank meetings, can raise that issue on behalf of the Philippine government. I think he should. It's unfair. We cannot allow ourselves to be the punching bag of any international [agency]," Gonzalez told reporters.

"The issues of graft and corruption are worldwide, except that we are the most notorious in flagellating ourselves so that the international community makes conclusions based on what we ourselves say to the world about us," he said.

He also pointed out that "the international community continues to help Sudan, Nigeria and some other countries where corruption is."

Not sacrosanct

Gonzalez likewise said the World Bank was not "sacrosanct."

"[Its] president had to resign because of his girlfriend ... That is corruption itself," he said in reference to Paul Wolfowitz who resigned midyear as a result of a controversy over the reported high salary that he had arranged for his girlfriend, a World Bank employee. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

gn bidders in

ANDAYA: Flaws in WB's procurement system.

ooming loan crisis

m along with its
y into the utiliza-
development as-
funds.
look into this so
remedial legisla-
safeguards in the
d soft and tied
rds in the dis-
loans are needed
rruption and en-
ility," she said.
called for the in-
A funds in the
controversies as
Broadband Net-
The contract for
ct was awarded
Corp., but it has
celled by Ms Ar-
f bribery allega-

dent Manuel Vil-
mber was under
look into the de-
ause the charges
were very specif-

o choice but to
anomaly," Villar

o Aquino III de-
rld Bank's action
ner" that should
e government to
after supposed-
e. numerous cor-
er the Arroyo ad-

that with the de-
the government
have done very
sing the corrup-

problem was the
economic gains
led down to the

for decisive ac-
cañang.
ive branch must
s condoning the
jects funded by
ganizations such
Bank through
entually will be
the Filipino peo-

called on Public
ry Hermogenes
e public the find-
stigation he had
rried out after

three failed bidding processes for three road projects.

No surprise

Renato Reyes Jr., secretary general of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the deferment of the World Bank loan was not surprising.

"The move of the World Bank merely affirms what we already know—that many public works projects in the Philippines are tainted with corruption," Reyes said in a statement.

"If a foreign multilateral lending agency like the World Bank can take notice of these shady deals, the Arroyo administration must really be pushing the threshold of corrupt practices," he said.

Reyes pointed out that this was not the first time a road project in the Philippines was revealed to be overpriced.

"We remember the infamous P1.1-billion Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, which was considered the most expensive stretch of road on earth ... The case is still pending with the Sandiganbayan," he said.

Reyes called on donor countries to "rethink their aid" to the Arroyo administration, saying "the perception that aid goes to the pockets of some unscrupulous officials" was a "cause for alarm."

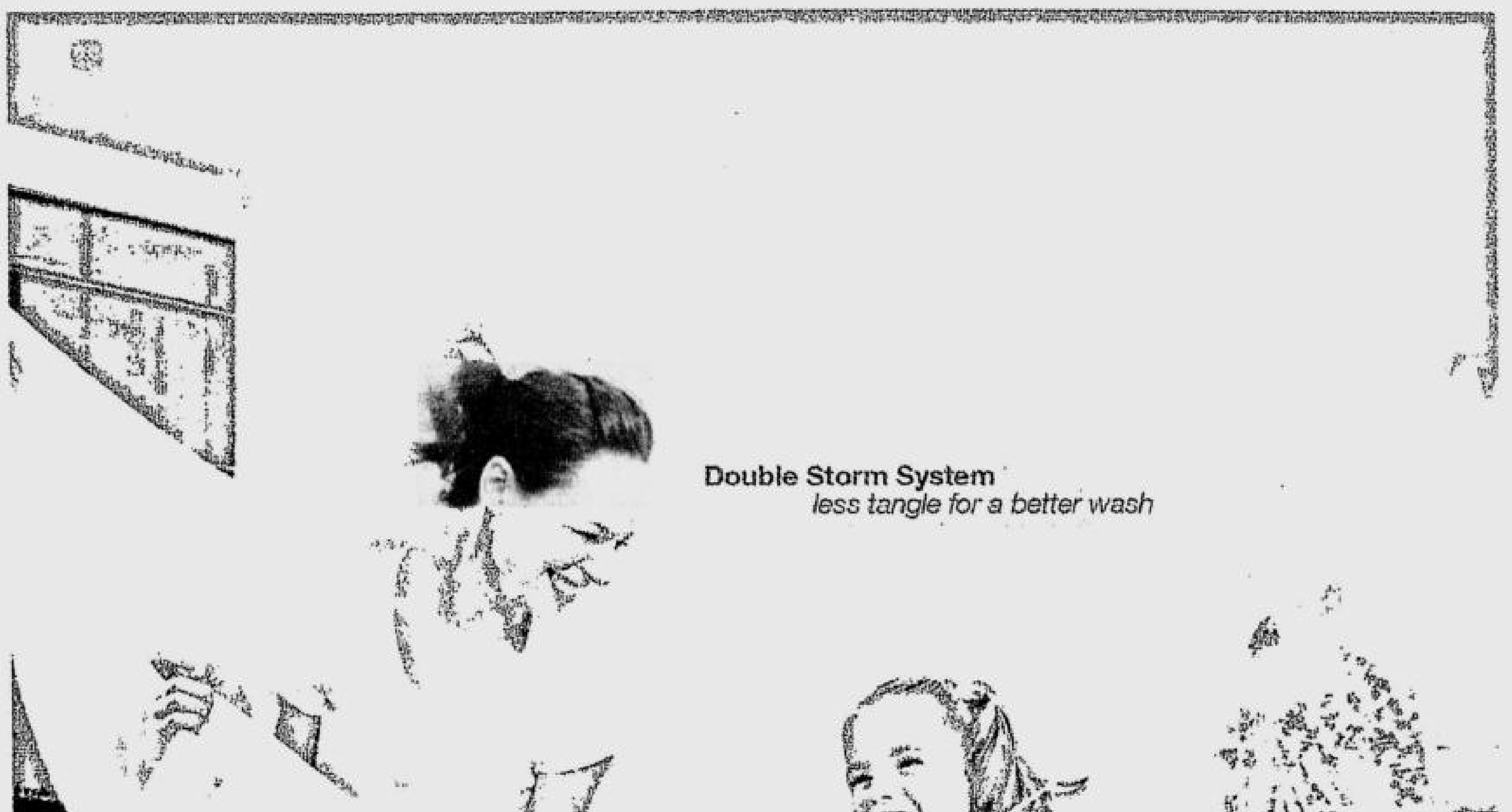
Meddling

Pichay, however, chided World Bank officials for supposedly meddling in the Philippines' internal affairs.

"The practice of the World Bank allowing foreign contractors to participate in bidding processes is actually a violation of the Constitution, so we've been doing this illegal practice for a long time," he said, adding:

"It's as if the World Bank is dictating on us. The money is not a grant, but a loan that will be paid by every Filipino taxpayer. That's why we should maintain our sovereignty over these [bidding] activities."

Pichay also said he would prefer "a bidding run like hell by Filipinos rather than a bidding run like heaven by foreign contractors." *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Jerome Aning*



Double Storm System
less tangle for a better wash

imagine the sheer pleasure of purer living

The cool touch of cotton billowing in the wind. The smell of the sun. The knowledge your laundry will emerge untangled, thanks to the opposing water jets that make for a powerful yet damage-free wash. You'll be amazed at how much enjoyment you get out of the Double Storm System. Plus, the Samsung Silver Wash releases billions of silver ions into the wash to keep your clothes sanitized and odour-free for up to a month. It's the little powerful innovations that make a big difference. With Samsung's new washing machines, it's not that hard to imagine. www.samsung.com/ph

Silver Nano + Double Storm

SAMSUNG

Samsung Customer Contact Center: TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digital.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 22 No. 346

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 523-5570
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Radical shift

EDITORIAL

TWICE IN A SPAN OF 15 YEARS, FILIPINOS DROVE their president out of office. In both instances, corruption was a key issue. (It was the main issue against Joseph Estrada, but it was compounded by human rights abuses and electoral fraud in the case of Ferdinand Marcos.) But despite so many corruption scandals sprouting all over the place today, President Macapagal-Arroyo appears destined to complete her regular six-year term in 2010. Have Filipinos perhaps gone soft on corruption?

Not at all, if public sentiments can be used as a guide. According to the latest survey done by Pulse Asia, 34 percent of Filipinos thought that if there was "strong evidence" that a president or a member of the family was involved in graft and corruption, he or she should resign. Aside from those who required strong evidence, a total of 59 percent, or three out of every five, thought that being linked directly or indirectly (through a member of the family) to corruption and tolerating corruption among government officials are sufficient grounds for a president's resignation.

The survey was done in October, amid the Senate investigation of the NBN-ZTE scandal and revelations about the distribution of cash to congressmen and governors right inside Malacañang, heightening public awareness of the corruption issue. And apparently no one among the people surveyed considered corruption to be an acceptable practice, even if, as Lee Kuan Yew once famously said, it has become a way of life in the Philippines.

But more than just signaling their disapproval, a significant majority indicated that they were willing to do certain things that would force a corrupt president to resign. Presented with several possible courses of action (allowing for multiple choices), 61 percent said they would sign petitions calling for the resignation or removal of the president, while 28 percent said they would discuss the matter with friends. An equal number said they would speak at rallies (27 percent) and/or join rallies and marches (26 percent). But 25 percent said that, beyond the protest marches and rallies, they were ready to do whatever was "necessary" to force an erring president out of office.

Pulse Asia seemed to play down the last statistic, saying "only one in four Filipinos expressed willingness to do whatever is necessary to accomplish their objective." It interpreted this as an indication that "most Filipinos are inclined not to take drastic measures to have a president resign or be removed from office."

Even more ominously, this statistic may actually reveal a significant radicalization of public opinion. A February 2006 survey by Pulse Asia showed only 6 percent wanted President Macapagal-Arroyo removed by a coup or foreign intervention, while fully 40 percent abhorred such military adventurism, saying a coup was most adverse to the country's interest. If 25 percent now approve of any means—and would in fact do whatever is necessary—to remove a corrupt president, are we perhaps seeing a very disturbing and dangerous shift in public attitudes toward military intervention?

We certainly hope not. But if that is what is happening now, then the Arroyo administration and its allies have only themselves to blame for it. Such a shift could only be a product of frustration over the breakdown of the only legal process for removing a sitting president, which is impeachment. And this breakdown was engineered by the administration itself, employing the weight of its overwhelming majority in the House of Representatives.

But before military adventurists and their sponsors get any funny ideas, they should remember that attitudes revealed in surveys do not always get translated into action. Otherwise, the 26 or 27 percent who said they would join marches or even speak in rallies could have already launched two dozen Edsas, and they have not despite the series of corruption scandals rocking the administration.

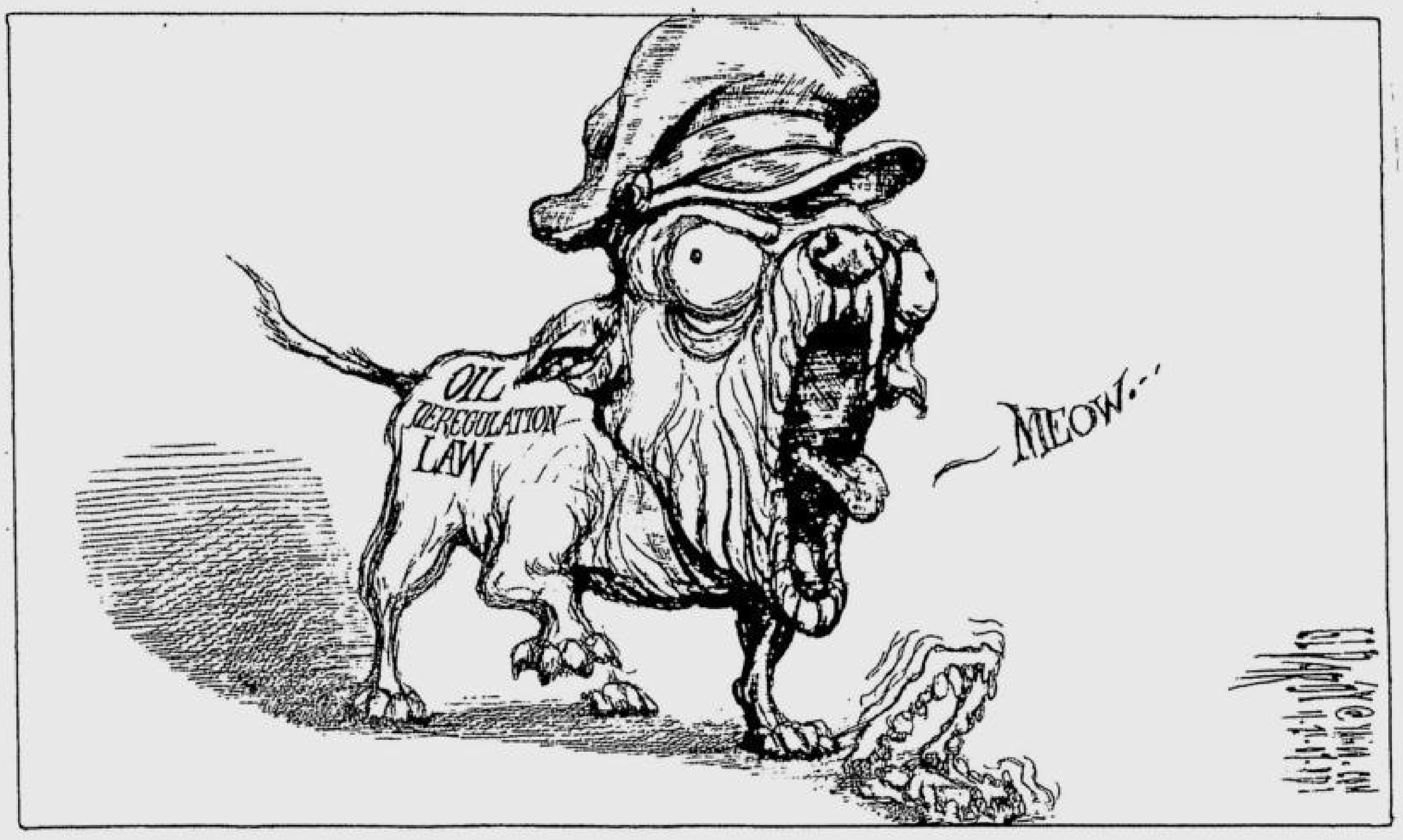
That should come as cold comfort for the administration or, worse, serve as a temptation for people in government to carry on like graft and corruption is nobody's business but their own.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
Associate Editor for Readership **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, Page One Operations* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Chief, News Day Desk **RUBEN G. ALABASTRO**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **SANDY SIMON R. YAP**

Readers' Advocate **LORNA KALAW TIROL**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Napocor explains 'overpriced' coal purchases

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AFTER THE SERIES OF BROWNOUTS LAST April, I wrote a column about the cause of the brownouts and the alleged emergency purchases of overpriced coal by the National Power Corp. (Napocor) for its power plants. Subsequently, a coalition of non-government organizations filed with the Ombudsman graft charges against top officials of Napocor for overpricing, and that column was used as one of the exhibits. Because of that column Napocor wrote me to explain the purchases. They were neither "overpriced" nor "emergency purchases," it said and requested that its explanation be published. To be fair to Napocor, we are doing just that:

"All our fuel purchases, including our coal procurement," Napocor said, "are done through biddings and in strict compliance with Republic Act 9184 (or the Government Procurement Law) and with the rules and regulations of the Inter-Agency Government Procurement Policy Board. These built-in checks effectively prevent NPC from awarding any contract to any supplier if the price involved is disadvantageous to the government.

"As for the alleged overpricing, our accusers have been saying that we bought coal for US$84 per metric ton, when the regular market price of coal is only between US$20-US$30 per MT. This is actually misleading because the lower price that these accusers are citing is based on the Asian Coal Index (ACI), which does not apply at all to the coal that NPC needs for its power plants. Our accusers also conveniently forgot to mention the heating value of the coal that can be bought for US$20-US$30 per MT. This is crucial because our power plants are designed to run on coal that have specific heating values derived from specific sources (e.g., some of our plants can only run on coal imported from Australia, while others use coal from China and Indonesia. Only the Calaca coal-fired power plant can run on local coal).

"As to prices, coal procurement must be based only on the Barlow-Jonker Qinhuangdao, and Newcastle coal indices for NPC's particular requirements. Unfortunately, these three indices have shot up this year due to several factors (e.g., strong typhoons, the collapse of some coal mines, etc.) all of which are beyond NPC's control.

"Compounding the problem is an unusually high demand for coal worldwide, particularly from steel plants and from countries like China and India. In short, coal prices are relatively high because of the tight supply and the increasing demand. Further, the rise in freight costs has come at the worst possible time for importers who have to struggle with current high coal prices. Baltic dry index, which measures the strength of seaborne trade for goods, has been setting new records daily for several weeks and is likely to keep climbing through the end of the year. Freight rates are being driven by the lack of bulk ships due to increased demand by expanding economies like China and India not only for coal but also for iron. Therefore, the lack of bulk ships is pushing the prices of coal even higher.

"At any rate, the US$84 per MT price being bandied about by our detractors refers to the approved budget for the coal supply of the Masinloc power plant. Please understand that this figure already includes freight, or the cost of transporting the coal from its country of origin. Using the Platts index as of March 30, 2007, importing coal from China would cost US$64.50 FOB (Freight on Board) per MT, and US$54.20 FOB if sourced from Australia. If freight costs of around US$25-US$30 per MT were added, prices should have been US$84 per MT. The bid offers we received from Hunter Valley, an Australian supplier, were US$78.95 per MT for two lots of coal and US$81.25 per MT for another three lots. Clearly, these offers were well within the approved budget, and as such were deemed acceptable to NPC.

"As for the US$20-US$30 per MT coal price cited by our accusers, clearly this figure does not include freight or shipping costs. It is also safe to assume that coal at this price level is of poor quality, and thus cannot be used to operate the Masinloc plant, which was designed to use only high-quality coal.

"Our detractors also alleged that the coal supply for Masinloc was bought through an emergency purchase. Again, this is simply not true, because government procurement rules require us to forecast our fuel requirements one year in advance. In the case of our coal-fired power plants, we made our projections as early as May 2006. Unfortunately, Masinloc was not included in that forecast because the plant was supposed to be privatized and turned over to its new owner by June 2006. When the transfer did not take place, we had to wait for directions from the Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp. as to whether the Masinloc plant will be re-bid.

"Please note that NPC resorts to alternative modes of procurement after regular biddings have failed. As for the 'negotiated procurement' used in the purchase of Masinloc's coal supply, this is also allowed under RA 9184. Under this procurement mode, NPC solicits tenders from at least three existing suppliers of good standing. In fact, the only difference between a public bidding and a negotiated procurement is that the procedure is cut short in the latter's case, as no publication prior to submission of bids is necessary. For transparency and as required by the procurement law, all invitations to bid as well as awards, whether under negotiated procurement or public bidding, are posted in NPC's website. The Energy Execom, as chaired by the Energy Secretary, is also regularly apprised of NPC's fuel situation.

"We hope this explanation will enlighten your millions of readers."

Once upon a time

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'M GLAD ALEX ROSARIO CONTINUES TO put up a "COD" display every Christmas, a tradition he has maintained for 50 years now. "COD," a thriving department store once, has long gone, falling by the wayside in the wake of fierce competition between giants to put up huge department stores in huger malls. There was a time when Christmas wasn't Christmas without the COD display: You knew the season had officially begun when the lights that illuminated the display began blinking in the night. It was one of those times when you took a kinder view of commerce.

It's a magical tradition Rosario has launched into this world. I caught brief glimpses of the mount in Avenida Rizal ages ago when I used to descend there on weekends in my college years. The major movie houses and bookstores were there, the street was a treasure trove of wonder and delight. Later in the 1970s, the COD at Cubao became a regular pilgrimage site on Christmas, particularly on Sundays, when us provincial folk from the wilds of Marikina would make *luwas* to the *ciudad* to see the bright lights. By then Cubao had morphed from open space, where the "salvaged" were deposited in the tall grass and where only the Araneta Coliseum stood proud and tall to proclaim civilization to all and sundry, into the commercial Mecca of Quezon City.

The only discomfiting part of that yearly Christmas pilgrimage was going back to Marikina, when the jeepneys would be crowded to the rafters—or to steps, a tangle of arms and legs flying outward, clothes flapping in the wind like billowed sail—and a passenger plunged into alcoholic stupor, his breath sending a stench into the already oxygen-depleted air inside the jeepney and himself pressing on your side like a dead weight. I didn't complain too vigorously, other than when I was clutching my daughter who was just a year old then, trying to protect her from the crunch. I knew I myself had contributed a deadly fume or two into that atmosphere on the occasion when I had imbibed a little too much on the day God rested.

But the display was worth it. It wasn't merely that it was free, though that wasn't a bad deal for people who counted their coins for bus and jeepney fare. This was a time when gasoline prices weren't all that bad, notwithstanding that Opec, having banded together as a cartel to protect their Allah-given resource, had sent them rocketing early in the decade. Movies were cheap, and you could indulge in a bowl of overflowing *mami* at Charlie's (I miss that place) afterward for a price that wouldn't make a great dent in your pocket.

But more than that, the COD display was free, it was care-free, or made you feel so. It was one of those things that brought back the magic of Christmas, which was really that it brought back the boy, or girl, in you. You looked at the world from the eyes of a child again, either because you quite literally had brought a child along with you and had enough empathy, or imagination, to attempt to grasp a world bursting with color with her puny senses, or because you yourself were thrown back to the days when the *perya* came to town on the fiesta and pitched camp there for the week, promising to unravel wonder and mystery, grotesquerie and magic, before your eyes.

Every year's COD theme always came as a surprise and, more often than not, a pleasant one. Those years being my activist years, I was of course partial to the Filipino Christmas, which looked not unlike the slice-of-life collages of Larry Alcala. But I didn't complain violently either when COD went White Christmas. It wasn't just because it brought bittersweet flashes of recollection of elementary-school days when we put cotton on Christmas trees to simulate snow (I nearly burned down a tree by putting a match to the cotton to see how fast it would burn, only to discover it burned really fast) and listened to radio pour out Bing Crosby. It was also because I figured, what the heaven, Christmas was a Western idea anyway, a dark-skinned Jewish carpenter and his wife and son having been turned into blond-and-blue-eyed WASPs in depictions of the Nativity scene.

The story, or myth, or archetype, however you want to call it, went beyond the trappings, and in moments of magic gave the bedraggled soul to feel its worth.

This year's theme is "Once Upon a Christmas Dream," and the tableau that goes with it seems quite a splendid one, to go by the picture that graced our front page last Sunday. The only thing that marred that picture was Erap on the foreground. I remembered how last year (or was it the other year?) GMA also appeared in a life-sized Nativity scene. Surely there's a difference between tapestry and travesty? There ought to be limits to Christian charity and Christmas compassion. The message of Christmas after all is about a God who gave up power to become one of the poorest of the poor and not about petty thieves who live for power and want to count among the richest of the rich.

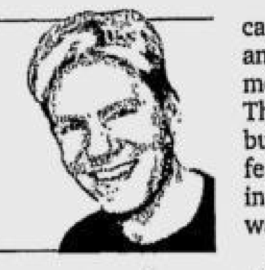
But that's another story. I'm glad that at 83, Rosario is still at it. Indeed, I'm glad that at that age, he's still as fit as a fiddle, having no known serious affliction. I don't know that his condition is related in any way to what he's been doing for the last 50 years, which has gladdened the heart of many a kid, from one to ninety-two. I'm not knocking miracle or grace, and there's always the therapy or sense of wellbeing that giving back to others for one's blessings brings.

I wish I could say it's a condition that naturally goes with not being greedy, but I look at most men and women in public office today who threaten to live forever and I know that's not true. I wish **they'd** be put on conspicuous display on Christmas carrying signs that say, "Cash on Delivery."

Now, wouldn't that out-COD COD?

Furnace cities

WORLD VIEW



Bjorn Lomborg

If we plant trees and build water features, we won't just beautify our surroundings, but we'll also cool things down

COPENHAGEN—IT'S POSSIBLE TO SEE, RIGHT now, what global warming will eventually do to the planet. To peek into the future, all we have to do is go to Beijing, Athens, Tokyo, or, in fact, just about any city on Earth.

Most of the world's urban areas have already experienced, over the past few decades, far more dramatic temperature hikes than the 2.6°C-increase expected from global warming over the next hundred years.

It's simple enough to understand. On a hot day in New York, locals sprawl out on the grass fields of Central Park, not on asphalt parking lots or concrete sidewalks. Bricks, concrete, and asphalt—the building blocks of which cities are made—absorb much more heat from the sun than vegetation does in the countryside. Across an entire city, there's much more tarmac than there is grass. So the air above the city heats up. This effect, called an "urban heat island," was discovered in London in the early 1800s.

Today, the fastest-growing cities are in Asia. Beijing is roughly 10°C hotter than the nearby countryside in the daytime and 5.5°C warmer at night. There are even more dramatic increases in Tokyo. In August, temperatures there climbed 12.5°C above the surrounding countryside, reaching 40°C—a scorching heat that affected not only the downtown area, but also covered some 8,000 square kilometers.

Looking at a fast-growing city like Houston, Texas, we can see the real effect of the urban heat island. Over the last 12 years, Houston grew by 20 percent, or by 300,000 inhabitants. During that time, the nighttime temperature increased by about 0.8°C. Over a hundred-year period, that would translate to a whopping 7°C increase.

But, while celebrity activists warn about the impending doom posed by climate change, a more realistic view is offered by these cities' ability to cope. Despite dramatic increases over the past 50 or 100 years, these cities have not come tumbling down.

Even as temperatures have risen, heat-related deaths have decreased, despite improved health care, access to medical facilities, and air-conditioning. We have far more money and much greater technological ability to adapt than our forebears ever did.

Of course, cities also will be hit by temperature increases from CO2, in addition to further warming from urban heat islands. But we have an opportunity to act. Unlike our forebears, who did very little or nothing about urban heat islands, we are in a good position to tackle many of their effects.

While celebrity activists focus entirely on cutting CO2, we could do much more—and at much lower cost—if we addressed urban heat islands. Simple solutions can make a vast difference to temperatures.

Cities are hotter than the land around them because they are drier. They lack moist green spaces and have drainage systems that efficiently remove water. In London, the air around the River Thames is cooler than it is a few blocks away in built-up areas. If we plant trees and build water features, we won't just beautify our surroundings, but we'll also cool things down—by upwards of 8°C, according to climate models.

Moreover, although it may seem almost comically straightforward, one of the best temperature-reducing approaches is very simple: paint things white. Cities have a lot of black asphalt and dark, heat-absorbing structures. By increasing reflection and shade, a great deal of heat build-up can be avoided. Paint most of a city and you could lower the temperature by 10°C.

These options are simple, obvious, and cost-effective. Consider Los Angeles. Re-roofing most of the city's 5 million homes in lighter colors, painting a quarter of the roads and planting 11 million trees would have a one-time cost of about $1 billion. Each year after that, this would lower air conditioning costs by about $170 million and provide $360 million in smog-reduction benefits. And it would lower LA temperatures by about 3°C—or about the temperature increase envisioned for the rest of this century.

Compare that to the $180-billion cost of implementing the Kyoto Protocol, which will have virtually no effect.

At the moment, we don't hear much about the smartest choices when it comes to addressing global warming. That needs to change. We do get to choose which future we want.

Project Syndicate

Bjorn Lomborg is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, adjunct professor at the Copenhagen Business School, and author of "Cool It and The Skeptical Environmentalist."

Warriors for safe motherhood

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DR. JONDI FLAVIER WRITES IN, CLARIFYING some points in the "Tale of two cities," a comparison of the impact of contrasting policies on reproductive health in Manila and Quezon City, that I wrote about in yesterday's column.

"While we can only present trends," writes Jondi, "what we see is the decreasing birth rates and lowering maternal mortality rates in Quezon City. We also believe that because of the lack of family planning services for women in Manila, there is a more level trend in birth rates there and tragically, there is an increasing trend in maternal deaths."

He adds, though, that data on birth rates and mortality rates and other indicators in the two cities would need more testing for significance, perhaps by statistics experts in the UP Population Institute or the Population Commission.

What he considers "more distressing," though, is that, based on a limited sample, "we have also seen that the abortion rate in Manila is now greater than in Quezon City." Jondi suggests that researchers "obtain a bigger sample for abortion comparisons." Even so, this seems a most logical, if not natural consequence of a policy severely limiting, if not withholding, family planning and other reproductive health services from women.

What the policy wrought was not a greater "love for life" but rather more desperation, such that women facing unwanted, mistimed pregnancies considered abortion as the solution to their very real problem. Indeed, as declared by Quezon City Councilor Sep Juico, main sponsor of the controversial reproductive health ordinance, the ordinance is in fact an anti-abortion measure, as it would provide couples who wish to avoid pregnancy or to better space their children the information and means to do so. Without such information and services, they would increasingly turn to abortion for relief—a point that so-called "pro-life" advocates can't seem to get into their thick skulls.

* * *

"WHAT we can say now is that, contrary to the unfounded circular of Bishop (Ongtioco) and the dominantly male anti-family planning and anti-women Catholic Conservative minority—Councilor Juico, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, and Vice-Mayor Herbert Bautista and the Quezon City Council are in fact warriors fighting for safe motherhood, and a better quality of life for families," writes Jondi. "Catholic educational formation, or the lack of it, should not be blamed on our QC legislators and executives—I would believe that the finger points back to some Catholic 'priests' who are less than good examples of morality. Cancers are too sweeping a problem to be pinned down on family planning and in fact, the fight of Councilor Juico in QC will be toward preventing abortions and decreasing the deaths of women and newborn babies."

An observer notes that the increasingly strident attacks on Juico and other supporters of the reproductive health ordinance and policy are indicative of the critics' growing panic. While they succeeded in intimidating the Arroyo administration into essentially abandoning the family planning program—with responsibility for it thrown to local governments—they face a tougher battle dealing with local governments. Right now, three provinces have already adopted comprehensive reproductive health policies, and if Quezon City succeeds in institutionalizing its program, it will be the first local government in Metro Manila to do so.

Quezon City could very well open the floodgates, which is not such a remote possibility in Metro Manila, with local government executives grappling daily with the consequences of population growth. No wonder the church conservatives have thrown everything but the baptismal font at Sep Juico, even before he could call his first public hearing on the proposed ordinance.

* * *

THIS and on succeeding weekends, make time to watch "Into the Woods," which the New Voice Company is mounting at the Music Museum.

The musical is a clever, witty re-working of the most beloved fairy tales from the Western pantheon. The most familiar characters are present here: Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Jack of beanstalk fame, the poor baker and his wife, not one but two Prince Charmings, Rapunzel, and, of course—what fairy tale would be complete without one?—the ugly witch.

But while the first act brings all these disparate stories to a satisfying, coherent "happy ever after," the second act poses the question: "What happens after ever after?"

What happens, it seems, is real life, and the pressing need to "grow up," with the characters forced into confronting their real-life problems and working out solutions to them.

Director Rito Asilo must be congratulated for whipping all the characters and story arcs into coherent shape, doing so briskly and energetically. The cast is generally superb, with outstanding performances from Lynn Sherman, who makes for quite a bewitching witch, Michael Williams as the baker finding his manhood, and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, who is in fine voice and form as the baker's wife bewildered at her own unhappy ending, despite getting her life's wish.

* * *

AT THE entrance of the Music Museum, I bumped into a glowing Monique Wilson, who said she was "thrilled at being here and not being involved in the show!"

Now based in London, Monique comes home to Manila and to New Voice Company usually to star in or direct a production. But I can understand her excitement: being in Manila and watching the other members of New Voice mount a production on their own, is a sign that the company has come into its own, maturing and claiming autonomy much like the fairy tale characters after "ever after."

Congratulations, then, to Monique as well for finding her own "ever after," as both an artist and company manager.

Old but timely reports

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

EXCEPT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE Nation Address or Sona, where the accomplishments of a year past and plans for the next are read to both houses of Congress and broadcast live to the nation, there seems to be no one-volume narrative report on the accomplishments of government readily available. Each agency submits to Congress an annual report and that makes for a great amount of reading.

There seems to be nothing available similar to the slim green volumes that contain the annual reports of the governor general of the Philippine Islands. The reports cover the American occupation of the islands and open with a transmittal from the President of the United States to the US Congress. They include not only the governor general's report but also the reports of the heads of the departments of the Philippine Government. The latter reports provide the details of the governor's report and other supporting materials.

In the absence of such a publication, the old Fookien Times filled in the gap. This annual compilation of government records and statistics will be useful to a future historian but of little interest to a general reader. We are happy that in the past decade, Fookien Times' energetic editor, Vernon Go, has made the publication a wonderful mix of visuals, information, analysis and comment. One can only wonder how pleasurable a historian's task would be if the primary sources were in a more engaging form. While academic historians will probably argue "no pain, no gain," I still believe work and toil should or can be pleasurable.

While browsing through my broken set of the "Reports of the American Governors General," I regretted not having acquired a mint-condition complete set of these from a retired historian who acquired one when he was a student in the United States half a century ago. While moving his boxes into his new apartment in Cubao, he accepted help from strangers in the street, only to discover later that some boxes were missing. One of those boxes, presumably the heaviest, contained the "Reports of the Governors General."

I do wonder where these ended up and hope they will be found in some second-hand or junk shop one day. I'm half-hoping the set was acquired by an interior decorator who needed some cloth-bound books to provide a semblance of learning and sophistication in someone's trophy home.

I recently picked a volume at random from my shelf—that of Henry Stimson for 1928—set it on its spine, and the book opened to "The Great Typhoon of 1928." (We have so many typhoons each year, their strength is often measured negatively by the death and destruction they leave behind.) Stimson reported:

"This typhoon began on November 23 and, from the width of its path and its unusual duration, rather than from exceptional violence, exceeded in destructiveness almost all of the typhoons which have visited the islands since the American occupation. (Did Stimson reckon from 1898?) Coming from the east, its center struck Samar, crossed the Archipelago in a somewhat northeasterly direction, and then re-curved in the China Sea, again crossing the northern tip of Luzon. Its principal damage was done in Samar, northern Leyte, Sorsogon, Albay, and Masbate, but further serious damage was done in at least 12 other provinces."

Details of the damage done can also be found in the reports of the various departments, and Stimson gave the outlines of relief efforts and the reestablishment of communication brought down by the typhoon. In an age before airplanes, the Navy was at the head of relief efforts.

All this may be old news but the situation repeats itself every year. The 1928 typhoon hit Samar badly, over 500 people were killed, 25,000 homes were damaged (completely or partially), and half a million pesos worth of public works were destroyed. Then there was the damage to crops whose effect would only be felt months later.

Today we have Pagasa to give us fair warning, but when a typhoon decides to re-chart the face of the earth, we can do very little but hope for the best. Typhoons recur every year and this is quite a challenge for places visited the most, like Batanes whose architecture has adapted to the annual passage of bad weather. Stimson noted that Samar was unfortunately in the annual typhoon path and said:

"It is probably due to this fact that the inhabitants have never been able to pull themselves out of a very low standard of physical welfare. In many districts, the people are habitually undernourished, and they constantly lack the vigor and initiative necessary to meet such catastrophes. Therefore it is of vital importance not only to relieve the suffering caused by this typhoon, but, if possible, to do it in a way that will render the suffering provinces better able to take care of themselves in the future. It is a situation peculiarly requiring constructive relief rather than mere charity."

The sad fact that these words, especially those suggesting "constructive relief rather than mere charity," are as timely today as they were in 1928 only underscores the problem—nobody reads these boring old reports anymore. Of course, the reports are stale and good only for historians; it is unfortunate that we do not learn from our past.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Karma

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I HAVE TWO ARTICLES TODAY, BOTH DEALING WITH NAtional karma. We've all heard about individual karma, but there's also something called collective karma, the idea that what we do as a nation, likewise yields results for the entire country.

I heard of the concept from Buddhist monks in the past but was reminded about it last weekend when I overheard someone telling her friend: "With so many horrible things happening in the Philippines, we must have done really terrible things in the past. Bad karma."

You don't have to be Buddhist to believe in karma. Even the Bible has a passage about reaping what we sow. It's not about God or gods rewarding or punishing us, but about recognizing that all our actions have consequences, sometimes long-term, and often in the most unexpected ways.

Intrigued? Read on to find out what I mean.

Conde

Conde was the old, emaciated and overworked horse that collapsed in front of the Inquirer during the weekend. Inquirer staff called the vets in to rescue the horse, but it was too late, and it had to be put to sleep. The owner argued that he had cared for the horse as best as he could.

We treat animals badly in the Philippines, and often I hear people explain that this is inevitable in a poor country. When people need to feed their families, they can't be thinking about being nice to animals. I disagree. I've visited many countries far poorer than we are but where animals are treated well. And in my work with the poor in the Philippines, I've seen many households too where animals are cared for, even brought to the vet when ill. Conversely, some of the most maltreated animals I've seen come from wealthy households.

Some time back, I wrote about a resort town in Bohol where local *barangay tanod* went out one morning and beat stray dogs to death, all within eye sight and ear shot of tourists. They were doing this supposedly to protect the tourists.

I was reminded of the incident a few weeks ago when the Inquirer published a letter from a foreign tourist complaining about cruelty to dogs in Boracay. The tourist said she would never visit the Philippines again. That was what I warned about before when I wrote about Bohol. I was with Dutch visitors and I can imagine them returning home and telling friends about the barbarism here.

I'm sure our tourist officials haven't thought about this angle of animal cruelty keeping tourists away, but it is a factor. We already get so much bad press in Europe about our dog-eating so if they hear about the way we beat up dogs to protect tourists, "Wow Philippines" is going to mean something totally different from what the Department of Tourism intended.

Bohol doesn't need this kind of bad karma. A few months after that heartbreaking incident in Bohol, I returned, this time to another town in that province. There were several dogs roaming the beach. You could tell they were well-treated with the way they'd approach people. They weren't scrawny and hungry. They went up to people, inviting them to play. I'm careful too about unfamiliar dogs but was comfortable with these dogs because they had collars on, and rabies-vaccination tags. One of them joined me as I strolled down the beach, and eventually enticed me to go for a dip in the sea. Then it went off looking for new friends.

A Zen dog, I thought, without attachments. They could become part of the attraction of these resorts.

Next time you're in a resort, or maybe even a restaurant, surprise the resort owners by praising them if they treat dogs and cats well. And if they don't, let them know as well that you don't intend to return, unless they do something about it.

But let's not be kind to animals for show, or to attract tourists. There's another karma angle to this: being cruel to animals makes it that much easier to be cruel to humans. Cruel is actually an understatement for the way we treat animals in the Philippines. Even in the slaughter of food animals, I've seen butchers doing their job with sadistic glee—I'll spare you the details—sending shivers up my spine as I thought of how they might treat their children or spouses.

Again, karma isn't about gods rewarding and punishing you: it's about an ethic that grows on you, for better or for worse, and that becomes part of you, or a whole province, or nation.

Engaged literacy

The US National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has released a new study called "To Read or Not To Read," summarizing findings from some 40 studies about reading habits and skills.

The report is packed with statistics to support some basic messages. First, Americans generally are reading less than earlier generations, but the decline is greatest among the young. On a weekend, for example, 15- to 24-year-olds average more than two hours watching TV, and only seven minutes for reading. Of those who do read, 35 percent would do this simultaneously while tuned on to other media like TV, videogames or the computer.

Second, when people read less, they read less well. There's a decline in reading comprehension, which affects job prospects. One survey asked employers about the quality of applicants and the complaints were uniform: younger Americans had weaker command of English (is this America or the Philippines?), which meant they were less likely to perform well in their jobs. The decline in reading affects prospects for employment and opportunities for advancement—those with substandard reading skills were less likely to end up in management positions, or in business, financial and professional sectors.

The solutions aren't hard to come by. One study quoted in the NEA report found that the most significant predictor for high academic achievement was quite simple: having books in the home. I worry that in the Philippines, parents might think the computer can replace the books, but they forget that being computer-literate is still associated with reading skills. Abandon reading and you'll end up with kids who use the computers mainly for games and cyber-dating.

The NEA had an earlier study, published in 2004, where it emphasized that reading allows people to develop "focused attention and imaginative growth that enrich both private and public life." People who read are more likely to search for more knowledge, to go to museums, to do volunteer work, even attend sports activities.

Now for the karma part. The NEA notes that the decline in "engaged literacy" has resulted in America becoming "less informed, active and independent-minded." If we want to use the karma angle, we could say that by neglecting the needs of the young for reading, Americans generate "bad" karma for themselves and end up with a president like George W. Bush, and the mess in Iraq.

What's so scary too is that America's karma is often our karma too, if not that of the world, and it just might take more than being nice to animals, or reading, to get us out of this quagmire.

'Resign All' sounded anew

WE WERE NOT SHOCKED. WE knew from the very beginning that President Macapagal-Arroyo would pardon former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada after his conviction for plunder. That pardon clearly showed the people that the two belong to the same ilk.

We ask: Can President Arroyo pardon political prisoners like Juanito Itaas and Orlando Bundalian who have been in prison much longer than Erap was? Itaas and Bundalian have been languishing in jail, unlike Erap who was happily "imprisoned" in a mansion.

Yes, Erap and Ms Arroyo are "birds of the same feather." Erap sided with tycoon Lucio Tan against the workers of Philippine Airlines. He even reprimanded the workers, by asking them the question: "*Nakakain ba ang* CBA (Can you eat the CBA)?" Erap is pro-rich and his slogan "*Erap para sa mahirap*" is just a slogan.

Ms Arroyo, on the other hand, masterminded in putting our country under the clutches of globalization, the scheme of the capitalist class to prolong a dying system. Today, many workers are out of work. Regular workers are forced to resign and are replaced by contractual workers. A growing number of the urban poor are losing their homes in the name of progress whose measure is primarily infrastructure development, instead of human development.

In the run-up to Edsa II, we didn't join the Erap Resign Movement. The Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng mga Maralita ng Lunsod (KPML), together with bigger groups such as Sanlakas and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), built our own alliance calling for "Resign All" because we believed that Erap and GMA were the same. One of our posters said, "*Patalsikin ang buwaya, papalit ang buwitre* (Oust the crocodile, the vulture will take its place)."

We did not campaign for Erap's ouster just to put GMA in Malacañang. That's why immediately after Edsa II, we declared that "Erap's ouster is the people's will but Gloria is not the people's choice!"

There were also groups in the Erap Resign Movement which had as their battle cry "Paglingkuran ang Masa." But when the "*masa*," the urban poor, stormed Malacañang during Edsa III, these groups stood against the *masa* in defense of GMA.

Our call for "Resign All" has been proven right. Birds of the same feather. GMA and Erap are both bourgeois. They are not proletarians. Will we oust GMA just to replace her with Noli de Castro? Will we oust a bourgeois to be replaced by another bourgeois? No way! Again we are issuing the call for "Resign All." The workers and the urban poor demand: "Change the system!"

—KA PEDRING FADRIGON,
national president,
Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng mga
Maralita ng Lunsod,
Block 31, Lot 82-83,
Maya-maya St.,
Phase 2, Area 2, Barangay NBBS,
Dagat-Dagatan,
Navotas, Metro Manila

Don't delay Xmas bonus for GSIS pensioners

FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, THE Christmas bonus of Government Service Insurance System pensioners has been released in January, not in December.

Why must pensioners postpone their Christmas to January? Why must the pensioner suffer a month's delay when there is money for the bonus? Can't the GSIS let pensioners enjoy Christmas by giving them what is due them, on time?

If only Winston Garcia and the GSIS people knew how the pensioners feel during the holidays, when everybody is enjoying Christmas. Many of them can't feel the spirit of the season because they have nothing. Some have to borrow, but, of course, with interest. Most others can only watch with sadness and envy their Social Security System counterparts.

Yes, they get to receive their December pension on time, but this is already reserved for their monthly medicine and medical maintenance.

The 13th month pay is the only "extra" they have in the whole year, and they look forward to it.

Please, Mr. Garcia, have a heart. Please release our Christmas bonus for 2007 this December 2007, not in January 2008 which seems to be still so far away. We pensioners know that with just one click of your fingers, you can have it released.

Thanks in advance, and looking forward to a Merry Christmas!

—MILA D. AUJERO,
milaujeromilagros@yahoo.com

Is the Philippines back in the time of Jose Rizal?

THIS REFERS TO CONRAD DE Quiros' column, "Thank God." (INQUIRER, 11/5/07) Must we question now our faith? Or must we question the leaders of our faith? Or, to be specific, must we question those running the affairs of the Church and guiding us in our faith?

Are we again in those times about which our national hero, Jose P. Rizal, wrote his two famous novels? Or to say the least, are we again back to the time when we have to wonder: "We cannot change our faith, but probably, we have to check on the path the leaders of our faith are leading us to."

There is no questioning our faith, yet what we are experiencing is the callousness of the leaders of our faith to our search for truth in our social and political life.

Is it because of the doctrine of the separation of Church and State or is it because the Church is afraid of losing its wealth in the event that its priests are seen increasingly becoming adversarial to the interests of our political leaders?

—RAUL LORETO,
rauloreto@yahoo.com

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

P100 is too much for school project

ONE HUNDRED PESOS FOR A school project? The first question that came to my mind when I heard about 12-year-old Mariannet Amper was: "For what school project?"

Has anybody ever asked her teacher what the project was? Apparently that was the last straw for Mariannet.

I was a public school teacher for 30 years but never did I ask my pupils to give me even a single centavo for a project we had to do or make in class. This question has to be asked: "Are teachers in our public schools allowed to ask their pupils money for school projects?" It seems this practice is being tolerated. Multiply P100 by the 50 or 60 pupils in each class. That will add up to P5,000 or P6,000. Is this not too much for a school project?

Last year, I remember writing the Department of Education about a school in Laguna whose pupils were asked to contribute money for the construction of a fence in school, or else their school card would not be given to them. I received a copy of a letter referring my letter to the division superintendent of Laguna. I wonder what happened afterwards.

Time and again, newspapers come out with DepEd announcements prohibiting the "solicitation" of contributions from schoolchildren. Maybe if this had been enforced strictly by the principal of the school where Mariannet was enrolled, she would still be alive today. May her death not be in vain!

—CONSUELO D. SISON,
retired Quezon City
school principal,
elon.sison@gmail.com

A financial and moral rip-off

THE REPLACEMENT OF THE Manansala mural (sold for P10 million though many times more valuable, it being actually priceless) with the "bastardized" and censored painting of the Neo-Angono Artists Collective was a rip-off pulled by the present officers of the National Press Club (NPC) on its members. It is a shameful blot on the record of the NPC which has enshrined the defense of press freedom in its constitution.

In the months prior to the declaration of martial law and the decade and a half when our country was under a dictatorship, the NPC stood up against the Marcos regime, using the club as a center of democratic expression and anti-dictatorship activities. In one of its elections held at the NPC assembly hall, its members, then headed by Tony Nieva, helped Satur Ocampo escape from detention and torture.

In 1971, the NPC board of directors headed by Eddie Monteclaro of the Manila Times as president, with Satur, Tony Zumel, Bobby Malay and this writer as members, refused to be inducted by Marcos in Malacañang. We took our oath before the chief justice then, believing that to take our oath in Malacañang would compromise press freedom.

But ever since, all NPC directors and officers have taken their oath before the president in Malacañang, thus showing servility to the reigning political monarch. The NPC worked for the amendment of the Revised Penal Code that strengthened the right of journalists not to disclose their sources of information except in cases involving national security.

The NPC mural painted by the national artist, Vicente Manansala, was a modernistic art work that was at once a rebuke and an appeal to the journalism community not to succumb to corruption by ruthless politicians and grasping business and social elites. It warned journalists that if they allowed themselves to be corrupted they would lose their soul and go straight to hell. Although I am not an art critic, I consider the Manansala mural the equivalent of Picasso's "Guernica" and Juan Luna's "Spolarium" for its depiction of the truth.

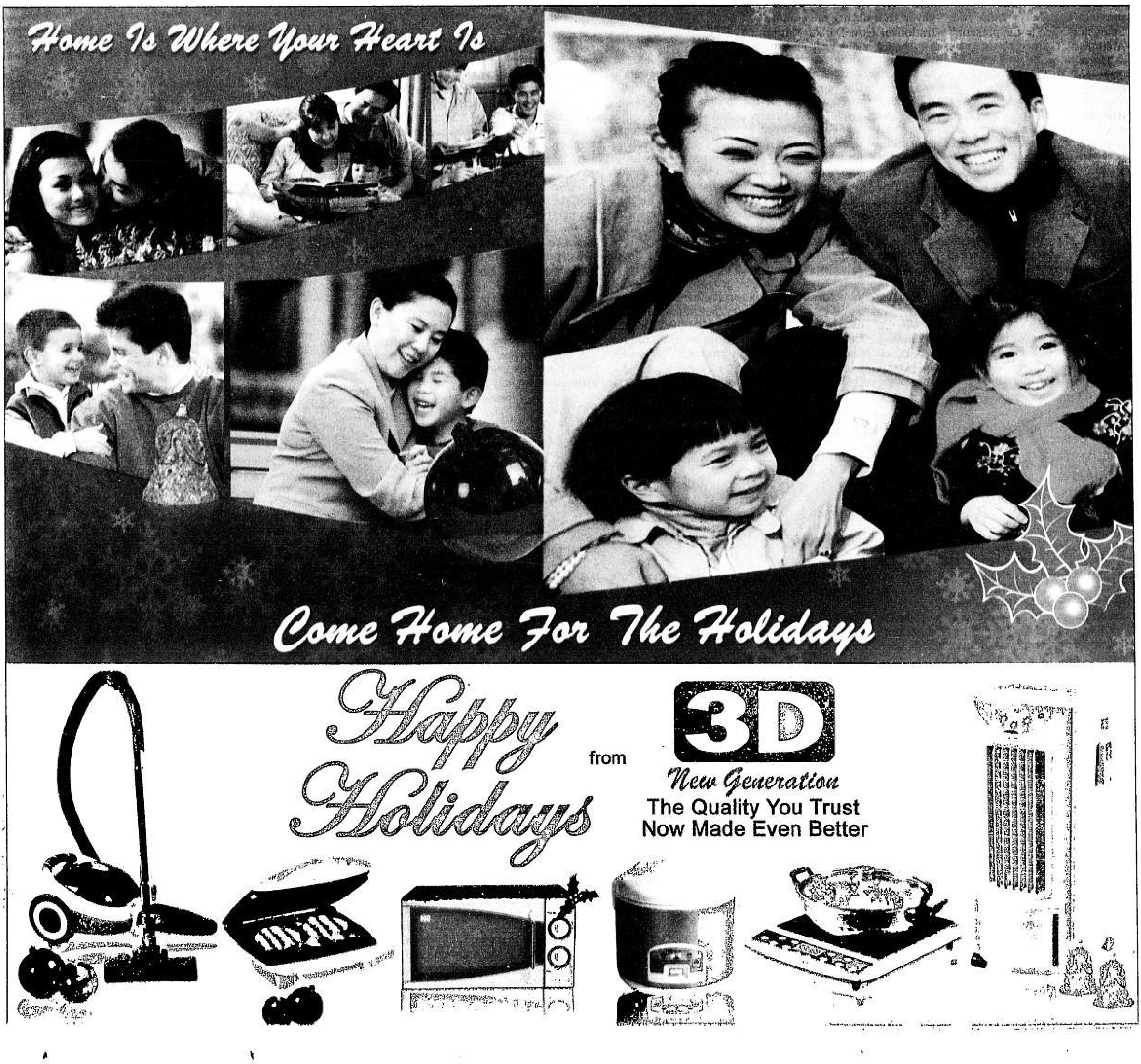
The censored new NPC mural depicts a "harmonious," "happy" and "progressive" Filipino society that does not exist and is consistent with the false and idealistic portrayal that the present administration and establishment wish to propagate. But journalism is all about telling the truth. Philippine journalism proudly derives its foundation and inspiration from the writers of La Solidaridad, like Jose Rizal, Graciano Lopez Jaena and Marcelo H. del Pilar, who savagely denounced social and political evils such as corruption, hypocrisy, colonialism, authoritarianism, exploitation and injustice.

A kind of journalism that does not expose evils is a servile attendant of evildoers. The sneaky switch of murals is a financial and immoral rip-off that should enrage decent journalists.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
spokesman,
Movement for Truth in History
(MOTH),
mfalmario@yahoo.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

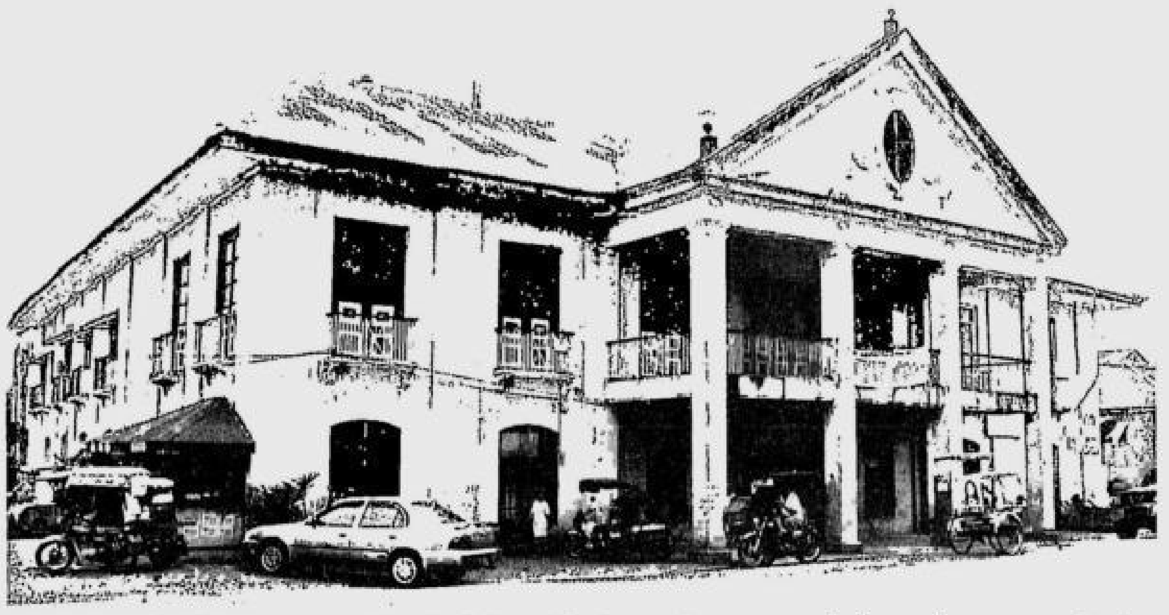
Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.



INQUIRER Northern Luzon
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

A royal house in a state of neglect

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Lingayen, Pangasinan



CONSERVATIONISTS want the Casa Real, the original seat of government in Pangasinan, restored to its old glory.
RAY ZAMBRANO

RESIDENTS OF PANgasinan's capital town of Lingayen may not know it, but a "royal building" is right in their midst. Called Casa Real (Royal House), the building is, however, neglected and in a state of disrepair.

"I saw a photograph of it in the Philippine Picture Post Cards, a collection of 1900-20 post cards by Jonathan Best, and realized that we have a heritage landmark which we took for granted all this time," said Arabela Arcinue, president of the Pangasinan Heritage Society Inc. (PHSI).

Arcinue's research showed that the structure was the Casa Real built by the Spanish government in the 1840s. It served as the provincial seat of government, where the *alcalde mayor* held office as governor and judge of the defunct Court of First Instance (CFI). It was also his official residence.

Casa Real—one of the early public structures built of brick in the province—is a two-story structure with a floor area of 1,728 square meters. It is located between the town hall and the *carcel* (provincial jail), another historical landmark.

"The still intact thick brick walls, ornate ceilings, the staircase of piedra china (granite stone) and wooden balustrades that lead to hardwood planks are all mute witnesses to the province's history from the Spanish regime to the present," Arcinue said.

The building has survived the elements, earthquakes and bombings during World War II.

Immense

A French ethnographer, who visited Lingayen in 1880, described Casa Real as "immense" and "covered with cogon roof." In 1891, it had zinc roofing, Arcinue said, showing photocopies of the cover page of the building's restoration plan (1885-87).

In 1886, Casa Real was renamed Gobierno to conform with political changes when the *alcalde mayor* was made to regain his judicial function as CFI judge, while the executive function went to the *gobernador civil*.

The landmark also played a part during the revolution against Spain.

According to the account of Felipe Quintos, a Katipunero from Alaminos town, Spanish soldiers and some Filipino recruits fought the native revolutionaries holed up in Casa Real.

The Katipuneros tried to capture the building from the nearby Baraca Street after crossing the Agno River behind it. Their movement was detected, however, and they were arrested and killed.

The Americans used Casa Real as seat of the province and changed its name to Capitol.

Residents also watched for the first time an exposition mounted by the Americans in the building on Feb. 3, 1910.

"It was a very big occasion that attracted many guests from all over the country. They think it was a carnival because their parents regaled them with stories of seeing wild animals like lions, tigers and elephants for the first time in their lives," said Arcinue, citing accounts of oldtimers.

In 1918, the present capitol was built along the historic Lingayen Gulf during the administration of Gov. Daniel Maramba. The following year, Casa Real was vacated and the provincial seat of power was transferred to the new capitol.

'Juzgado'

Casa Real was used as a public elementary school for three or four years before it became the Juzgado, which housed two regional trial court branches and other offices of the court.

The courts moved out in 1996, but some local government agencies are still holding offices on the ground floor.

According to Arcinue, 90 percent of the building's original design is intact but parts of the ornate ceilings are destroyed. Pipes protrude through the floor, some balusters are missing, and the wooden floors of the abandoned rooms are decaying.

"If it were human, it is in the throes of death and needs to be taken to the intensive care unit quickly," she said.

When she was serving as president of the Soroptimist International of Lingayen, Arcinue asked the National Historical Institute to declare Casa Real a national historical landmark.

In 2002, the NHI issued the proclamation, citing Casa Real as "an outstanding and unique example of civic architecture from the Spanish colonial period, [surviving] the Second World War and [remaining] to this day as a beautiful monument to the artistry, craftsmanship and ingenuity of the builders."

Plans were initially made to repair Casa Real, but these did not push through because of lack of funds from the provincial government. Then Gov. Victor Agbayani directed the offices occupying the building not to renovate any part of it.

The PHSI, whose advocacy is to preserve Pangasinan's rich culture and heritage, has brought the issue to the attention of current Gov. Amado Espino Jr.

"We are still waiting for an answer. We are very hopeful because the governor shares our advocacy," Arcinue said.

She said she would seek the help of Lingayen natives abroad to pool funds for the restoration.

"Or maybe we could ask [help from] the Spanish government, which might be interested in restoring one of the stately buildings that the Spaniards built during their reign in the Philippines," she said.

"Go only for the most trusted name in world-class fireworks"
DRAGON FIREWORKS
FREE DELIVERY
WELCOME DEALERS
FOR INQUIRIES, CALL:
Tel. No.: 421-6135 / 911-2981
Telefax: 421-7584 • Mobile No.: 0917-8801081
Website: www.dragonfireworks.com
E-mail: dragonfireworks_888@yahoo.com.ph
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Hafalla wins China award

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

BAGUIO-BORN TOMMY HAFALLA, WHO HAS made a name for himself for chronicling Cordillera life and rituals through photos, is the first Filipino and, likely, the first Southeast Asian to receive the documentary award in the 2006 International Folklore Photographic Contest.

The competition, sponsored by the China Folklore Photographic Association, culminated in an awarding ceremony on Nov. 18 in Dazhou, China, a city that is almost near Tibet.

Originally, the ceremony was scheduled in Beijing, but since the Chinese capital is busy with preparations for next year's Olympics, the venue was moved to Dazhou.

Hafalla, 50, learned from the organizers that he was one of 100 winners, the others coming from China, Japan, the United States and the European Union.

His "Faces of the Cordillera" was recognized with the Humanity Photo Award. The photo story consists of six black and white portraits of persons from the Mt. Province, Ifugao and Kalinga.

After he sent his prints by mail, the organizers e-mailed and asked him for a digital file. Hafalla said he was still doing traditional photography, using film, a darkroom, enlarger and all. The people from China apologized, telling him they would just scan his photos.

Apart from his mission to capture Cordillera life ways in pictures, he shares his skills through workshops at Foto Baryo in Batangas and in Sagada, Mt. Province, where he has trained a group of documentors.

He says, "I do not want to keep anything to myself. I'm happy to share my knowledge of photography and what I know of the culture."

Elizabeth Lolarga

Panasonic
ideas for life
40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
The Ideal Fusion of Ease and Design
The Next Logical Step in Communications
Digital Cordless Phones
KX-TG3531BX
Easy to Read Backlit LCD on Handset
*Available in Black Metallic
Easy to Use Compact Body
Easy to Use All Digital Answering System
Easy to Talk Digital Speakerphone
KX-TG3510 BX
Black
SPECIFICATIONS KX-TG3510BX KX-TG3521BX KX-TG3531BX
KX-TG3521BX
Silver
*Available in Black Metallic
Non-use of
Designed in Japan
*2 Requires subscription to Caller ID service by a telephone company
*3 Optional Handset Required
*4 Requires registration in Phonebook Function
Actual product may vary slightly from Photograph. Design and specifications are subject to change without prior notice
For dealer referrals, please call:
Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of PMPC)
Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 • Fax No. 897-4558 • Email address: pmpc_systemsales@ph.panasonic.com

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

'Lando' leaves 9 dead, several missing

TROPICAL STORM LANDO LEFT NINE PEOPLE dead and streets flooded in the Visayas and Mindanao, according to officials.

The death toll included seven people who died in separate landslides and two girls who died in floods.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said two persons were reported missing at the height of Lando.

In Cebu City, a 10-year-old girl died in floods, said Dr. Tony Golez, NDCC deputy administrator and concurrent deputy presidential spokesperson.

A 13-year-old girl was reported killed in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte. The death was also believed to be flood-related.

Deadly slides

Five men were killed in a landslide in Placer, Surigao del Norte, while two others died also in a landslide in Barangay Cagniog in Surigao City, Golez said.

Three persons were injured in Cebu and two others in Surigao City.

Golez said the landslide deaths meant some local government units did not heed early warnings issued by the NDCC to officials and residents of areas that were tagged landslide-prone.

"The NDCC has given warnings that the storm could trigger landslides," Golez said.

Unheeded

"The deaths could have been preventable. It's either the LGUs didn't inform the residents or the residents did not heed the warnings."

Iligan City has been placed under a state of calamity, the NDCC report said. Four transmission towers collapsed there due to the storm.

Residents of Northern Mindanao—Misamis Occidental and Oriental, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte and Bukidnon—were told to brace themselves for more possible disasters as rains continued.

The floods sent at least 600 families to evacuation centers in Misamis Oriental.

Evacuees

In Lugait town, Misamis Oriental, flood waters rose to five meters, inundating three barangays. In the adjacent town of Manticao, minor landslides also occurred.

Teddy Sabugaa, Misamis Oriental disaster coordinator, said relief operations have started for the displaced families.

"The families in the evacuation center need food and clothing," Sabugaa said.

Classes in private and public schools were suspended after floodwaters submerged at least 44 villages.

Armando Edroso, team leader of the disaster coordinating center, said mudflow also blocked portions of a village in the province.

The Department of Public Works and Highways also ordered the closure of the Tubod Bridge after cracks were noticed in its foundation.

Calamity funds

Iligan City Mayor Lawrence Cruz said the declaration of calamity would help because the city government can now use its 5 percent calamity fund.

Cruz said the social welfare office was directed to provide relief assistance to some 500 families displaced by the floods.

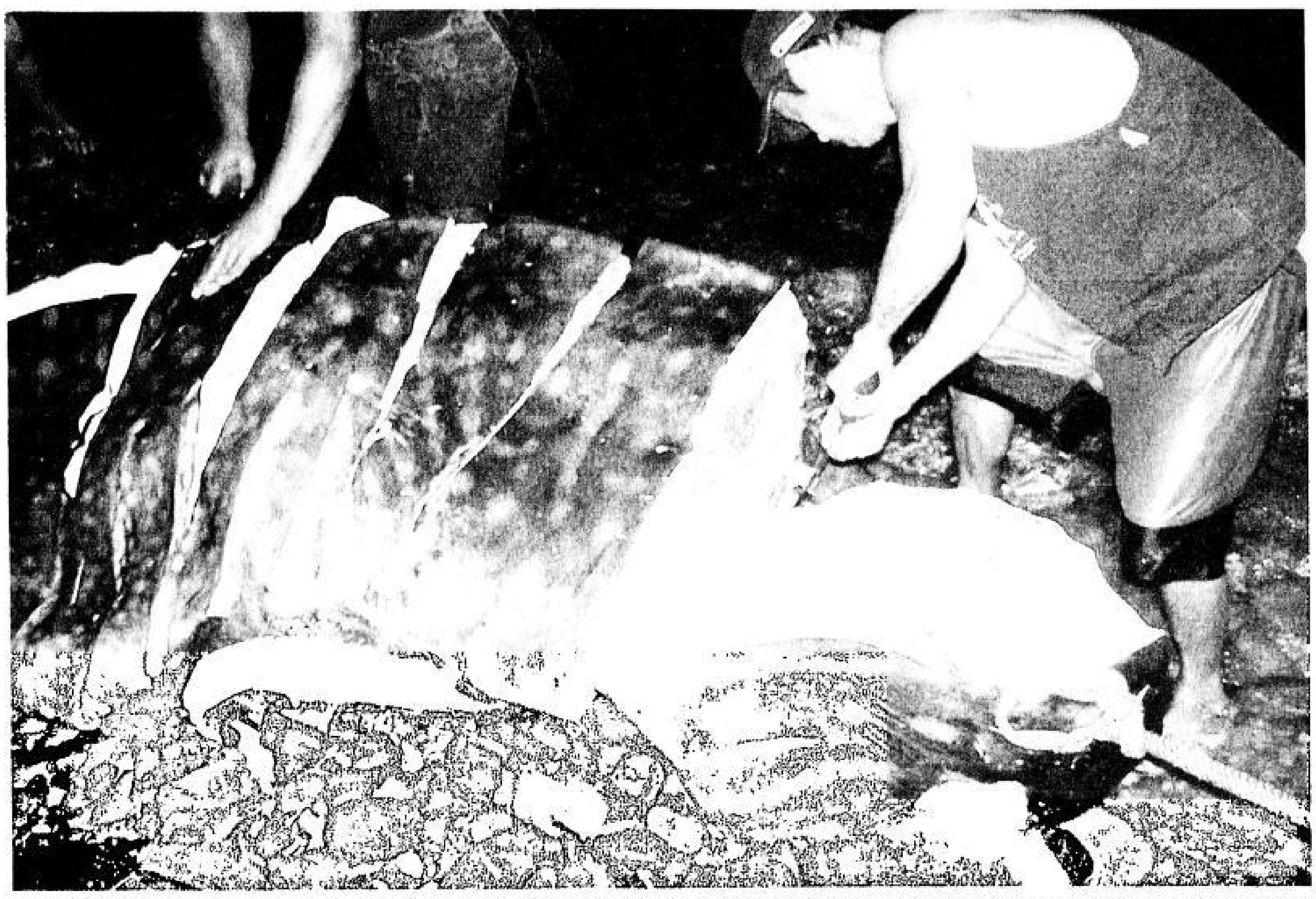
The Coast Guard reported four fishermen missing in Eastern Samar. The four set out to sea aboard MB Sunflower.

Two other fishermen were rescued from rough seas in Maasin City.

Cebu and other areas were under storm signal No. 2.

Classes in Bacolod City and Iloilo had been suspended on Monday, a day before Lando struck.

But Lando did not make landfall in Negros Occidental, although the storm dumped rains. *Nikko Dizon in Manila and Jani Arnaiz, Joey A. Gabieta, Jhunnex Napallacan, Carla P. Gomez and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas; and Ma. Cecilia Rodriguez, Richel Umel and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*



RESIDENTS CUT up a juvenile whale shark that died after it was beached in a Batangas City coastal village. BERNARD MENDOZA/BATANGAS CITY VETERINARY OFFICE

Whale shark dies after straying in Batangas

BATANGAS CITY—A JUVENILE whale shark, popularly known as butanding in the Bicol region, died shortly after it was beached along the shoreline of a coastal village here over the weekend.

Residents, representatives of the City Veterinary Office (CVO) and a group of environmentalists tried but failed to revive the 17-foot-long butanding, which was found floating off Barangay Dela Paz Pulot Aplaya.

Rodolfo Ferdinand Quicho Jr., executive director of the First Philippine Conservation Inc. (FPCI), said a fisherman saw the whale shark swimming off the rocky portion of the sear in the area at about 6 a.m. on Sunday.

On Monday night, local officials decided to cut up the dead fish after it started to rot and release a foul smell.

A 10-wheel truck later brought the fish, believed to weigh over a ton, to Barangay Sico where it was buried.

"We were just concerned about the effect of the stench on our health. We wanted to bury the butanding without cutting it to pieces but the fish was just too heavy," village chair Florentino Balmes Jr. told the INQUIRER.

He said the fisherman who discovered it noticed that the fish looked too frail to swim away from the rocky portion of seashore.

When Quicho and his group arrived at the site on Monday afternoon, the whale shark was already washed ashore by the strong waves as residents ogled at the big fish.

Quicho said the whale shark, which was still in its infancy stage, apparently died shortly after it was reported to them.

He said they have yet to determine the real cause of the death of the whale shark, also known as the gentle giant of the sea.

He said that aside from a minor cut in the left part of its tail and a reddish section of its chest, the whale shark had no visible wounds and lacerations.

Balmes said they suspected that the butanding died after waves smashed it against rocks near the shore. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NEWSBRIEFS

2 ex-cops held

MAGALLANES, Sorsogon—Two former Quezon City policemen were arrested here after they tried to arrest a newly elected barangay captain in this town.

SPO2 Sancho Diaz, chief investigator of the Magallanes Municipal Police Office, identified the suspects as Francisco Gimpes and Ronie Panizales.

Diaz said the two had with them a photocopy of a warrant of arrest for Eduardo Velasco, newly elected barangay captain of Tula-Tula Sur, who was facing a homicide case in Quezon City.

He said local police confronted the two for not coordinating their operation with the local police and found that they had no mission order.

The Quezon City Police Office denied the two were their members. ***Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon***

New towns in ARMM

COTABATO CITY—Two more towns were created in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, raising the number of municipalities to 108.

Last year, four towns were created in the ARMM.

Data from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) said the two new towns were created for Sulu and Basilan provinces, two of the six provinces that comprised the autonomous region.

The new ARMM local government units were among the five new cities, two municipalities, one barangay formed in the third quarter of 2007, the NSCB said.

In a statement, the NSCB said the number of cities increased from 131 as of June 2007 to 136 as of September 2007. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao***

Poverty, capillariasis tied

SIAYAN, Zamboanga del Norte—Mayor Wilfredo Suasico has blamed poverty for the outbreak of capillariasis, which already claimed at least 70 lives here in the past three months.

Suasico said residents have repeatedly been told to refrain from eating freshwater fish and shrimps because these were infected with capillaria worms but the residents did not heed the warning.

"They were so poor that they had no choice but to eat these foods," Suasico told INQUIRER.

Residents here are dependent on corn and rice farming. They harvest at least twice a year but their income is simply not enough, according to officials. ***Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao***

"Hindi gawang biro ang maging working-mother. Bukod sa masayang bonding, napakahalagang mapangalagaan ang kalusugan ng aking pamilya.

Kaya't pagdating sa gamot, pinipili ko ang RiteMED para sa asthma namin ng anak ko. De-kalidad na, magaan pa sa bulsa. Napagkakatiwalaan dahil gawa ng Unilab."

PRECY ASENCION BAUTISTA, M.D.
Icasiano Awardee
1st Prize, Category I
Philippine Medical Association (PMA)

FOR ✓ CHOLESTEROL ✓ HYPERTENSION ✓ DIABETES ✓ ASTHMA

Kumunsulta sa inyong doktor o itanong sa botika kung aling gamot ng RiteMED ang nararapat sa inyong karamdaman.

Available in all mercury drug nationwide

A Public Health Service by:
RiteMED™
Right Medicine Priced Right™
Trusted Quality Healthcare

Sulit na Gamot, sa Sulit na Presyo!

Product		Suggested Retail Price	% Savings vs. Leading Brand
ANTI-HYPERTENSION			
DILTIAZEM*	30 mg tab x 50	P 8.70	71%
	60 mg tab x 50	P 12.25	72%
METOPROLOL*	50 mg tab x 100	P 2.00	23%
	100 mg tab x 100	P 4.95	21%
ATENOLOL*	50 mg tab x 100	P 6.05	18%
ENALAPRIL*	5 mg tab x 100	P 12.25	53%
	10 mg tab x 100	P 14.60	56%
ANTI-CHOLESTEROL			
SIMVASTATIN*	20 mg tab x 30	P 20.15	53%
	40 mg tab x 30	P 27.00	37%
ANTI-DIABETES			
GLICLAZIDE*	80 mg tab x 100	P 5.80	56%
METFORMIN*	500 mg tab x 100	P 4.60	58%
	850 mg tab x 100	P 7.15	61%
ANTI-ASTHMA			
SALBUTAMOL*	2 mg syr x 60mL	P 43.60	60%
	2 mg tab x 100	P 1.90	73%
ANTI-INFECTIVES			
CEFALEXIN*	250 mg cap x 100	P 11.25	51%
	500 mg cap x 100	P 19.00	60%
	125 mg susp x 60mL	P 87.50	59%
	250 mg susp x 60mL	P 159.50	55%
	100 mg drops x 10mL	P 94.25	38%
CEFACLOR*	250 mg cap x 30	P 42.60	47%
	500 mg cap x 30	P 78.25	25%
	125 mg susp x 30mL	P 138.25	20%
	125 mg susp x 105mL	P 338.25	27%
	50 mg drops x 20 mL	P 235.75	14%
CLOXACILLIN*	500 mg cap x 100	P 15.80	74%
AMOXICILLIN*	250 mg cap x 100	P 4.60	20%
	500 mg cap x 100	P 6.15	43%
	250 mg susp x 60mL	P 99.25	3%
ERYTHROMYCIN*	250 mg tab x 100	P 7.45	62%
	500 mg tab x 100	P 18.50	50%
COTRIMOXAZOLE*	800/160 mg tab x 100	P 19.65	40%
FOR MIGRAINE, TOOTHACHE & DYSMENORRHEA			
MEFENAMIC ACID	250 mg tab x 100	P 3.40	72%
	500 mg tab x 100	P 6.00	76%
VITAMIC C			
ASCORBIC ACID	500 mg tab x 100	P 1.35	77%
ANTI-ANEMIA			
IRON + FOLIC ACID	167mg/600 mcg tab	P 1.10	94%
FOR FEVER AND FLU			
PARACETAMOL	500 mg tab x 100	P 1.00	72%
	120 mg syr	P 29.85	65%
FOR DIARRHEA			
LOPERAMIDE	2 mg cap x 100	P 3.70	73%
COUGH			
AMBROXOL	15 mg syr x 60mL	P 40.50	48%
	15 mg syr x 120mL	P 75.25	37%
	30 mg syr x 60mL	P 52.75	52%
	30 mg syr x 120mL	P 93.50	45%
	30 mg tab x 100	P 4.35	56%

AVAILABLE AT:
mercury drug (NATIONWIDE)

* This product is classified by the Bureau of Food and Drugs as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a doctor's prescription. Consult your doctor.

UN-backed court probes Khmer Rouge

From page A1

blamed for the deaths of some 1.7 million people from starvation, disease, overwork and execution. Many have said they feared the surviving Khmer Rouge leaders might die before being brought to justice. The movement's notorious leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998.

Relaxed and exceedingly polite, Kaing Guek Eav—alias Duch—was escorted by guards into a packed courtroom for a pretrial hearing to seek bail ahead of trials scheduled to begin in 2008.

Duch, 66, who is charged with crimes against humanity, took the witness stand dressed in a white polo shirt and stood up when asked to tell the court his name. He then brought his palms together in a sign of respect for the five-judge panel beside him.

A presiding judge read aloud from Duch's case file: "Under his authority, countless abuses were committed, including mass murder, arbitrary detention and torture."

Hundreds of journalists, international observers and Cambodians crowded the tribunal's compound on the outskirts of Phnom Penh to witness the event, which comes almost three decades after the regime fell from power.

Two satellite trucks from Cambodian television stations were parked outside the courthouse to carry the proceedings on live television

'A milestone'

"This is historic," said 58-year-old Sin Khor, whose husband and two brothers died during the Khmer Rouge reign. One of her brothers was shot execution-style, she said. "Thirty years have passed. But what happened then remains alive for me."

Tribunal spokesperson Peter Foster hailed Tuesday's hearing as "a milestone," saying he hoped it would ease the doubts of critics who feared the tribunal would never materialize.

"It's a big day," he said. "The spotlight will now be on Cambodia."

Born-again Christian

Duch, who became a born-again Christian and aid worker in the 1990s, is one of five senior officials of the brutal regime to be taken in custody ahead of the genocide trial.

His hearing was held in the tribunal's small pretrial chamber, with a live video feed broadcast to the main courtroom that seats 500 people.

Duch was charged in July with crimes against humanity for his role as the head of the regime's infamous Tuol Sleng prison, also called S-21, in Phnom Penh. Up to 16,000 men, women and children were tortured there from 1975-79 and later taken away to be executed. Only 14 people are thought to have survived.

Duch was a gifted math teacher before he joined the Khmer Rouge, oversaw its security apparatus, and allegedly ran the regime's killing machine with cold, numerical precision.

"Duch oversaw a precise department of death," the journalist Elizabeth Becker claimed in her book, "When the War Was Over."

"Duch even set aside specific days for killing various types of prisoners: one day the wives of 'enemies'; another day the children; a different day, factory workers," she wrote.

Huge archive

Ever meticulous, Duch built up a huge archive of photos, confessions and other documents with which the final horrible months of thousands of inmates' lives can be traced.

Little is known about Duch's life during the two decades after the Khmer Rouge fell. He was long thought dead following his disappearance into the jungle.

Shortly after his wife was murdered in 1995, Duch began attending Christian prayer meetings and was later baptized by Christopher LaPel, an evangelical Khmer-American minister.

In a 1999 interview with Time magazine, LaPel remembered Duch as an enthusiastic convert, but said there were signs pointing to his dark past.

"Before he received Christ, he said he did a lot of bad things in his life. He said: 'Pastor Christopher, I don't know if my brothers and sisters can forgive the sins I've committed against the people,'" LaPel was quoted as saying at the time.

Duch was arrested on May 10, 1999 and held in a Cambodian prison on war crime charges before being transferred to the tribunal's custody.

Reason for appeal

When the tribunal asked him the reason for his appeal, Duch rose with palms pressed together and replied, "because I had been detained for more than eight years without trial."

His defense attorney told the court that Duch should "have freedom immediately."

A ruling was not expected for several days.

In a detention order in July, the tribunal's investigating judges denied a request by defense attorneys for Duch's release. The judges said they had no jurisdiction to determine the legality of Duch's previous detention. They also argued that Duch's current detention by the tribunal would ensure his appearance at the trial and protect him from any violent revenge for the crimes he is accused of.

4 others accused

Duch's hearing came one day after former Khmer Rouge head of state Khieu Samphan, 76, was arrested and charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes. Police arrested Khieu Samphan at a Phnom Penh hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment since last week after suffering an apparent stroke.

Khieu Samphan was the last of five Khmer Rouge leaders targeted by prosecutors ahead of the trials.

Last week, authorities arrested Ieng Sary, the Khmer Rouge's ex-foreign minister, and his wife Ieng Thirith, its social affairs minister. Both were charged with crimes against humanity; Ieng Sary was also charged with war crimes.

Former Khmer Rouge ideologist Nuon Chea was detained in September on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. *Reports from AP and AFP*

UN-BACKED GENOCIDE COURT opens its doors for the first public appearance of a dreaded Khmer Rouge figure like prison chief (center) Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on Tuesday.

AP

AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR SECURITY SERVICES

1. The **AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM (AFP-RSBS)** now invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Security Services for the following AFP-RSBS properties as stated below:

PROJECT	LOCATION	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID DOCUMENTS (non-refundable)
Security Services for Riviera Residential Estates	Silang, Cavite	30	P 5.928M	P 10,000.00
Security Services for San Lorenzo South	Sta. Rosa City, Laguna	15	P 2.880M	P 5,000.00
Security Services for IPMO	Taguig City	11	P 2.251M	P 5,000.00
Janitorial Services for IPMO	Taguig City	11	P 1.737M	P 5,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
3. Interested parties shall submit proposal/s on any or all of the aforementioned projects. One project is equivalent to a single award or contract, separate and distinct from each other.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **AFP-RSBS** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents will be available for issuance to interested applicants from **Nov. 22, 2007** and may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount as above-stated. The method of payment will be *cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *AFP-RSBS* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **Dec. 10, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFPRSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or **before 9:00 a.m. of Dec. 21, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *cash, check or bank guarantee* and in the amount specified in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening** shall be on **Dec. 21, 2007, 9:05 a.m.** at the **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the following address

Bids and Awards Committee
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9118714/9120056

10. The *AFP-RSBS* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) MR. MICHAEL A. SANCHEZ
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - November 14 & 21, 2007)

Work Big
On small budget
IN24+
• DLP® Technology
• SVGA (800 x 600)
• 2000:1 Contrast Ratio
• 2000 Lamp Hours
60% brighter
2400 lumens
with free printer!
ONLY P33,990.
2-year warranty
No. 1 InFocus
InFocus
The Big Picture
www.infocus.com
Special offer!
Enjoy P8,000 more savings!
Wallmount/ Tripod Screen
P990*
IN26+
• Hi-Resolution XGA (1024 x 768)
• 2400 Lumens
P49,900

From a meeting room to a large conference room, InFocus Work Big multi-media projectors magnify small ideas into bigger ideas. Messages come across, audiences are persuaded and the presentation is well-delivered. InFocus gives you the brightest, sharpest images, richest colors and all the power you need to enhance and illustrate your ideas.

Buy a Work Big IN24+ or IN26+ projector and get a free Fuji Xerox DP203 A Laser printer worth P8,000.

From November 21 to December 15, 2007

*when purchased with IN24+ or IN26+

Present coupon to avail promo.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # A3-0851 Series of 2007

Distributed by: American Technologies, Inc • Tel 7230601 to 12 • Fax 723 7951 • Website www.ati.com.ph

PRINT and SHOP
with
KONICA MINOLTA
LASER PRINTERS
magicolor® 2500W
P 18,950.00*
FREE P2,000 SM Gift Certificate
magicolor® 2480MF
P 43,500.00*
FREE P3,000 SM Gift Certificate
magicolor® 2490MF
P 49,500.00*
FREE P4,000 SM Gift Certificate
magicolor® 5430DL
P 44,950.00*
FREE P5,000 SM Gift Certificate PLUS 1 Paper Tray
magicolor® 7450
P 175,000.00*
FREE P10,000 SM Gift Certificate
COPYLANDIA
OCTAGON

Enjoy the impressive quality performance of a Konica Minolta laser printer, and go shopping!

For every purchase of a Konica Minolta Magicolor laser printer, you get a corresponding SM Gift Certificate!

magicolor® 2500W — 5ppm color, 20ppm b&w, A4

magicolor® 2480MF — copy, print, scan, A4

magicolor® 2490MF — copy, print, scan, Fax, A4

magicolor® 5430DL — 20 ppm color, b&w, A4

magicolor® 7450 — 30 ppm color, b&w, A3

*These prices are for Metro Manila only. Provincial prices vary according to corresponding add-on transport costs.

Promo runs from Nov 25, 2007 - Jan 15, 2008

The Total Document Solutions Provider

Call 535-8-535
visit www.copylandia.com

Or visit the showroom at
718 Sgt. Bumatay St.,
Mandaluyong City, Philippines 1550

ANGELES	(045) 887-2499
BACOLOD	(034) 433-2559
BAGUIO	(074) 446-5356
BUTUAN	(085) 341-7742
CABANATUAN	(044) 600-0377
CALAMBA	(049) 545-7284
CAGAYAN DE ORO	(088) 857-4272
CEBU	(032) 232-4522
DAGUPAN	(075) 515-3306
DAVAO	(082) 224-0793
DUMAGUETE	(035) 225-4759
GENERAL SANTOS	(083) 553-9057
ILIGAN	(063) 221-3713
ILOILO	(033) 320-7488
LIPA	(043) 757-0235
NAGA	(054) 473-4936
PUERTO PRINCESA	(048) 434-8610
ROXAS	(036) 621-5896
TACLOBAN	(053) 321-7610
TAGBILARAN	(038) 411-2396
TUGUEGARAO	(078) 846-2762
VALENCIA	(088) 828-2328
ZAMBOANGA	(062) 991-2446

Also available at Metro Manila branches of

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5946 Series of 2007

UN envoy meets GMA, other leaders

By Norman Bordadora

SINGAPORE—UN ENVOY Ibrahim Gambari's address on Burma (Myanmar) to Asian leaders was canceled abruptly, but his trip to Singapore was salvaged Tuesday by holding private meetings to brief the leaders on his negotiations with the junta.

First to meet Gambari was Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye described as cordial the 20-minute meeting between Ms Arroyo and Gambari.

"The President was the very first one that he (Gambari) met right after he arrived from the United States . . . He was thankful that the president was able to give him an audience," Bunye said.

Asked if Ms Arroyo made any recommendation to Gambari on the Burma issue, Bunye replied: "The President already had said her piece. I think it was time for the President to listen."

The press secretary was referring to a statement that Ms Arroyo made at the Asean leaders' dinner on Monday night. She told her Asean counterparts then that the Asean Charter would have a difficult time getting the ratification of Philippine Congress if Burma failed to deliver on its commitment to institute democracy.

Gambari was also scheduled to meet with other leaders and foreign ministers of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand.

After meeting Gambari, Ms Arroyo had talks with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

Bunye said the two leaders left out the issue of the controversial national broadband deal with China's ZTE Corp. during their talks that lasted 15 minutes.

"The discussion centered on the joint explorations of the three countries, namely People's Republic of China, the Philippines and Vietnam, in the South China Sea that the first phase of the exploration phase has been completed and the Chinese premier expressed hope that three countries will continue the cooperation on the development level," Bunye said.

He added that Wen invited Ms Arroyo next year.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo, who visited China four times this year, told Wen that she looked forward to making another visit next year. *With report by AP*

Burma problem spoils . . .

From page A1

ter Thein Sein scored a major diplomatic coup by blocking UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari from briefing Asian leaders on his two visits to Burma since the junta violently suppressed mass street rallies in September.

In addition to their diplomatic bungle, Asean leaders rejected calls for Burma's suspension from the bloc as punishment for the junta's crackdown on prodemocracy protesters that left 15 people dead and its refusal to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Analysts said Asean leaders averted a walkout by Burma by caving in to its demands—maintaining the bloc's unity but paying a high price in credibility.

'Terrible deception'

"It is just dreadful. It was a terrible decision," said Sean Turnell, a Burmese expert from Australia's Macquarie University after the decision, which came during a heated leaders' dinner on Monday.

"At least the meeting with Gambari could have sent a signal that Asean was concerned," he said. "They missed a golden opportunity to send a signal to Burma."

In the face of widespread criticisms, Asean leaders urged Burma's military rulers to open a "meaningful dialogue" with Nobel laureate Suu Kyi, release her from house arrest, free all political detainees and work toward a "peaceful transition to democracy."

Asean Secretary General Ong Keng Yong insisted the body was not kowtowing to Burma by shelving Gambari's scheduled address on Wednesday. "We leave to fight another day," Ong told reporters. "We don't want to come across as being too confrontational in a situation like this."

Signing of Asean Charter

In his opening remarks at the annual summit, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the Burma issue would not distract Asean leaders from the summit's main event—the adoption of the Asean Charter after nearly three years of haggling.

Under the crystal chandeliers of the Shangri-La hotel ballroom, Lee became the first Asean leader to sign the charter that speaks of democracy and human rights.

He was followed by the leaders of the young democracies of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines; the leaders of one-party states Laos, Cambodia, Burma and Vietnam; the absolute monarch of Brunei; and the head of the Thai military junta that overthrew a democratically elected Thai government.

Burma's prime minister stood stiff and stern throughout the ceremony. Among the leaders, only Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo managed a smile.

The 10 Asean leaders then raised a toast of fruit juice and clinked glasses after the signing of the charter.

The long-overdue Asean Charter is aimed at formally turning the 40-year-old organization—often derided as a toothless talk shop—into a rules-based legal entity. That means Asean can sue and be sued under the charter, and will be held accountable for all the treaties and agreements it signs. It will also set up enforceable financial, trade and environmental rules.

Human rights

One of the most significant pledges in the charter is to set up a regional human rights body. The document, however, failed to include a mechanism for enforcing human rights.

Critics say the charter will have limited impact because it will not be able to punish governments that violate the human rights of their citizens.

Negotiators have watered the charter down by dropping earlier recommendations to consider sanctions, including possible expulsion, in cases of serious breaches of the covenant by member nations.

The charter upholds Asean's bedrock principle barring members from interfering in each other's domestic affairs—an edict that Burma has invoked to parry criticism of its dismal human rights record and to prevent the human rights agency from having any teeth.

But Philippine Ambassador Rosario Manalo, chair of the task force that drafted the charter, said Filipino human rights groups as well as their counterparts in other Southeast Asian countries would have a new international forum to raise issues of abuses by governments.

"Moving forward is another step," Manalo said. "But it's already there . . . the issue of human rights is already institutionalized with that body."

Rules for trade investment

The Asean Charter accords a legal identity to Asean for international negotiations and transactions. It sets out a common set of rules for negotiations in trade, investment, environment and other fields.

The economic blueprint sets targets and timelines to fuse Asean's 10 disparate economies into a single market and production hub by 2015. Goods, services, investment, skilled labor and capital will be allowed to move across borders freely under the Asean Economic Community, although it won't involve a single currency like the euro.

Economists said the ambitious plan would boost the economic muscle of the sprawling region of 550 million people, roughly the same market size as the European Union. But they warned protectionism, political instability, poverty and snail-pace implementation were key hurdles to its success.

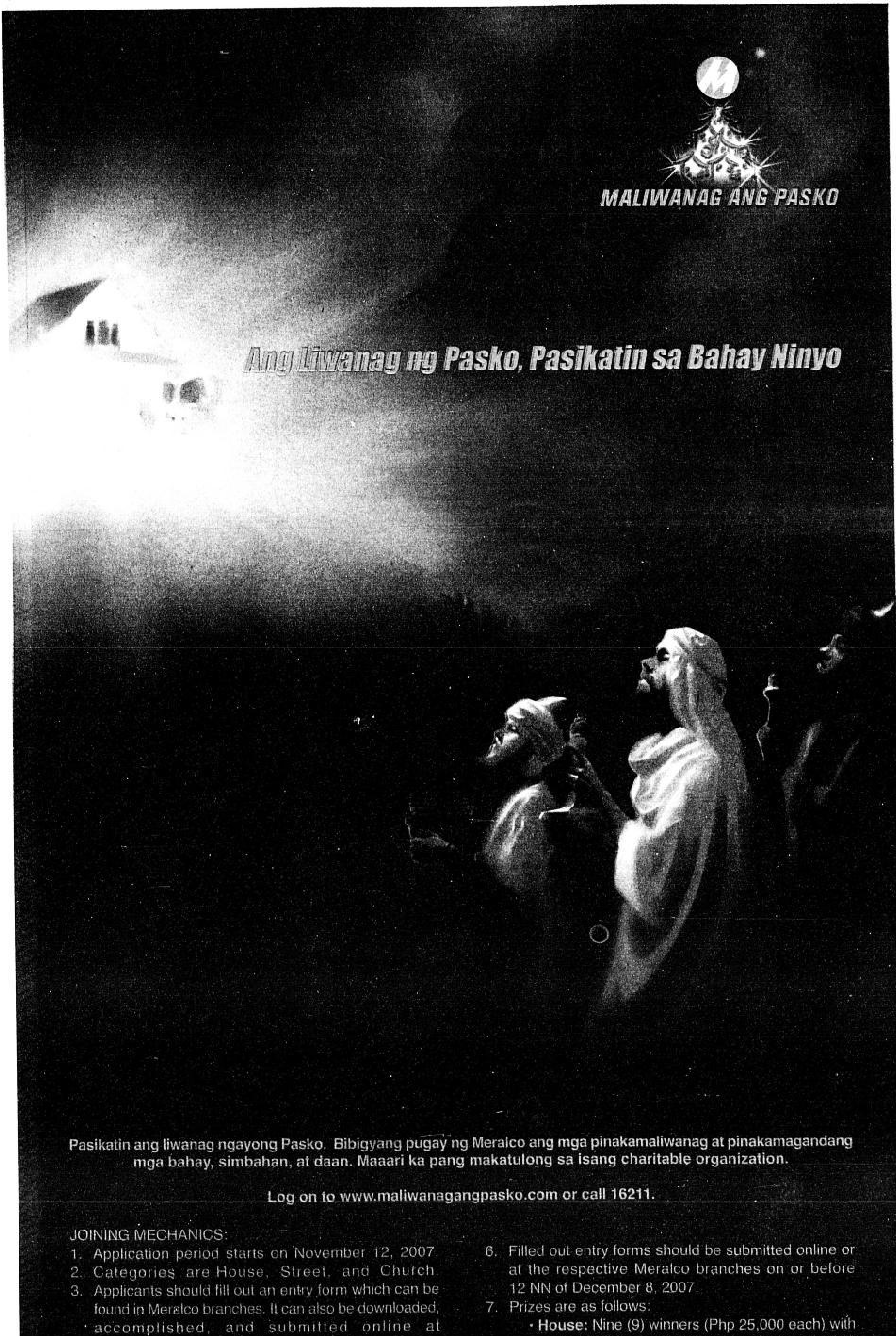
"These are very nice goals to stick up on the wall. Some are doable, but to achieve a single market is tough, unless all the countries are ready to open up," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist with CIMB-GK Research in Singapore.

Actual economic assimilation in Asean has been sluggish and the region—which has a combined GDP of roughly $880 billion (euro600 billion euro)—accounts for only 6 percent of global exports.

Burma's poor human rights records and political problems are also barriers to Asean's plans to boost linkages with its key trading partners, the United States and the European Union.

"Their hopes for more integration is likely aimed at maintaining their competitiveness versus China and India," said David Cohen, director of Asian forecasting at Action Economics in Singapore.

"It is a step in the right direction; 2015 is a reasonable target, but it might not be achievable. Protectionist policies can come in the way when countries try to integrate," he said. *Reports by Norman Bordadora, AP, AFP and Reuters*


MALIWANAG ANG PASKO
Ang Liwanag ng Pasko, Pasikatin sa Bahay Ninyo

Pasikatin ang liwanag ngayong Pasko. Bibigyang pugay ng Meralco ang mga pinakamaliwanag at pinakamagandang mga bahay, simbahan, at daan. Maaari ka pang makatulong sa isang charitable organization.

Log on to www.maliwanagangpasko.com or call 16211.

JOINING MECHANICS:

1. Application period starts on November 12, 2007.
2. Categories are House, Street, and Church.
3. Applicants should fill out an entry form which can be found in Meralco branches. It can also be downloaded, accomplished, and submitted online at www.maliwanagangpasko.com.
4. Each participant from the house category must choose his/her preferred charity partner from the list indicated in the entry form.
5. Two (2) filled out forms should be submitted along with a maximum number of 3 photos (printed 5R or digital) of the entry showing the lighted house/church/street.
6. Filled out entry forms should be submitted online or at the respective Meralco branches on or before 12 NN of December 8, 2007.
7. Prizes are as follows:
   - **House:** Nine (9) winners (Php 25,000 each) with nine (9) partner charities (Php 25,000 per charity).
   - **Street:** Nine (9) winners (Php 25,000 each)
   - **Church:** Nine (9) winners (Php 25,000 each)
8. For details and full mechanics, visit the website.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5752 Series of 2007 See posters and flyers for details.

SAVING THE CITY'S LUNGS: Parolees/probationers/pardonees get into the act of fighting global warming. They are planting 70 saplings in the bald patches of the 2.2-ha Arroceros Forest Park in Manila. REM ZAMORA

Prison break to combat climate change

From page A1

Around 50 probationers, parolees and pardonees from the Manila Parole and Probation Office No. 6 in Sta. Mesa will plant 70 saplings in the bald patches of the 2.2-hectare forest, according to Regina Paterno, president of Winner Foundation.

"We welcome all volunteers [who want] to help so they will feel part of Arroceros Park. And because of global warming, I think it's important to spread the message that we all have to participate in solving that problem," Paterno told the INQUIRER.

Part of what program

In a letter to Paterno, chief probation and parole officer Angelito Ilano said the 9 a.m. activity was part of the rehabilitation program that used multidisciplinary techniques. It was also a "fitting occasion" to celebrate Drug Prevention Month.

"Through tree-planting, we hope to use the promotion of the environment in developing the social behavior of our clients. This will make them feel like an integral part of the community," Ilano said, adding that the Arroceros Forest Park was the "only one of its kind" in Metro Manila.

Ironically, the acacia rain tree and banaba saplings to be planted were given by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Its current secretary, Lito Atienza, was assailed by the Winner Foundation during Atienza's term as Manila mayor for allegedly ordering the cutting of trees in the park to give way to a building for public school teachers.

Vanishing trees

In the past weeks, a gardening committee from Winner has been kept busy by the rush of volunteers from schools, private companies and nongovernment groups like Assumption College, Centro Escolar University, Citibank and Rotary Club of Manila Metro.

"We are trying to replant as fast as we can before the typhoons come. There are still a lot of places to fill in," Paterno said.

A commissioned topographic map created by geodetic engineer Agustin Perida in July showed that only 2,000 of the park's 8,000 trees remained.

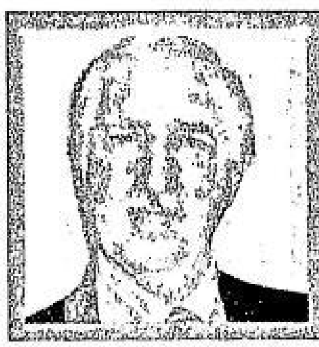
Gusi Peace Prize
Awardees for 2007

Vice President Elias Camsik Chin (PALAU)
Humanitarian Law

Mr. Yu Pang Lin (CHINA)
Philantropy

Senator Heherson Alvarez (PHILIPPINES)
Public Service, Environment

Dr. Thep Phongparnich, Ed.D. (THAILAND)
Agricultural Research, for Education



Dr. Farland H. Stanley (USA)
Archeology

Chairwoman Constancia de Guzman (PHILIPPINES)
Anti-graft & Corruption

Michalos Constantine (GREECE)
Poverty Alleviation & Job Creation

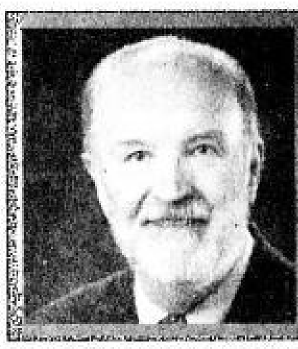
Thomas Cheng Wai Yu (HONG KONG)
Sports

Shigeru Suganami, M.D., Ph. D., (JAPAN)
Medicine

Senator Ney Robinson Suassuna (BRAZIL)
Political Governance

George Bistis (USA)
Broadcast Journalism

Atty. Persida V. Rueda-Acosta (PHILIPPINES)
Social Justice



Peter M. Schantz, V.M.D., Ph. D. (USA)
Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Tae Sup lee (KOREA)
Public Governance & Humanitarianism

Lt. Gov Elmo Johnson (Federated States of Micronesia)
Poverty Alleviation and Indigenous Rights

DODGE CHRYSLER Jeep

MADRUSH

You only have 3 days to MAKE A DEAL of a lifetime!

PACIFICA
CALIBER
DURANGO
COMMANDER
300C

November
23, 24 & 25, 2007

Make A Deal now and Rush to get your own Chrysler, Jeep & Dodge vehicle.

★ Extremely low Downpayment ★ No Cash DP Scheme for Trade-In Buyers
★ 5 years extended 0% interest scheme* ★ Special deals for Cash Buyers

* Applicable on selected models only
Available through China Bank, Sterling Bank and AIG Philam Saving Bank from November 23-25 only.
PER DTI-NCR Permit # 4171 Series of 2007

Chrysler Financial

CATS
CHRYSLER MAKATI 2287 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City, Metro Manila TEL: (632) 815 2222 / MOBILE: (0920) 904 0717
CHRYSLER GREENHILLS 1008 EDSA Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila TEL: (632) 723 5808 / MOBILE: (0920) 904 0716
EMAIL: chryslergroup@cats.com.ph WWW.CHRYSLER.COM.PH

3 YEAR WARRANTY

NEWS
Website: www.inquirer.net/nation
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Jonas ma hits CHR 'cover-up'

Desaparecidos' kin slam probe's closure, say findings say nothing

THE MOTHER OF THE MISSING Jonas Joseph Burgos yesterday lashed out at the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) over what she said was the agency's "skeletal resolution" declaring its inquiry into the disappearance of her son temporarily closed.

Edita Burgos, who accused the CHR of participating in an alleged cover-up, and relatives of other *desaparecidos* (disappeared), trooped to the CHR office on Commonwealth Avenue yesterday to file her response to the resolution issued by the agency for "Case No. 2007-058" on the enforced disappearance of Jonas Joseph Burgos.

Edita said the "findings" said nothing and provided no conclusions on the agency's findings.

She also took exception to the CHR's statement that she had been "non-cooperative" and and that she had refused to testify before the body. This was cited by the CHR, particularly Commissioner Dominador Calamba, as the reason for the "temporary closure" of the inquiry.

"I can't accept that their reason for stopping the investigation is that I was not cooperative. That's absurd. My son is missing," Edita told reporters.

She said she was at the June 15 public hearing ready to testify, but wanted an Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (ISAFP) official to precede her. However, even though Calamba agreed to the arrangement, the latter insisted on calling Edita to testify first to which her lawyers objected.

Edita said Calamba then refused to call her to the witness stand even after Gen. Delfin Bangit of the ISAFP had testified.

She said it was silly to encourage the Armed Forced to continue searching for Jonas when she suspects the military of having had a hand in her son's disappearance.

"They're [the CHR] insulting our intelligence," she said in Filipino. *Jeannette Andrade*

Lotto winner in no hurry to claim ₱105M

WHILE OTHERS WOULD HAVE DASHED TO the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to claim the P105.8 million pot, the winner of the Super Lotto lottery last Sunday is apparently taking his time about getting his hands on the loot.

Until yesterday, the winner of the P105,810,975 pot in the Nov. 18 Super Lotto 6/49 draw, the second biggest this year, has not given notice or made any move to claim the prize.

Larry Cedro, the PCSO spokesperson, said in a telephone interview the winning ticket was bought somewhere in Bicutan, Taguig.

He said the PCSO cannot disclose the winner's profile. And since the winner has not turned up at the PCSO main office, they cannot tell what the gender of the winner is nor how much was spent on the winning bet.

Cedro said the winning numbers—12, 13, 27, 31, 34, 37—were apparently chosen by the bettor and may be numbers that he or she considered significant.

"The numbers the winner chose were not part of the 'lucky pick.' The winner chose the numbers," the PCSO spokesperson said, explaining that it was what was called "standard pick," or numbers consistently selected by the bettor.

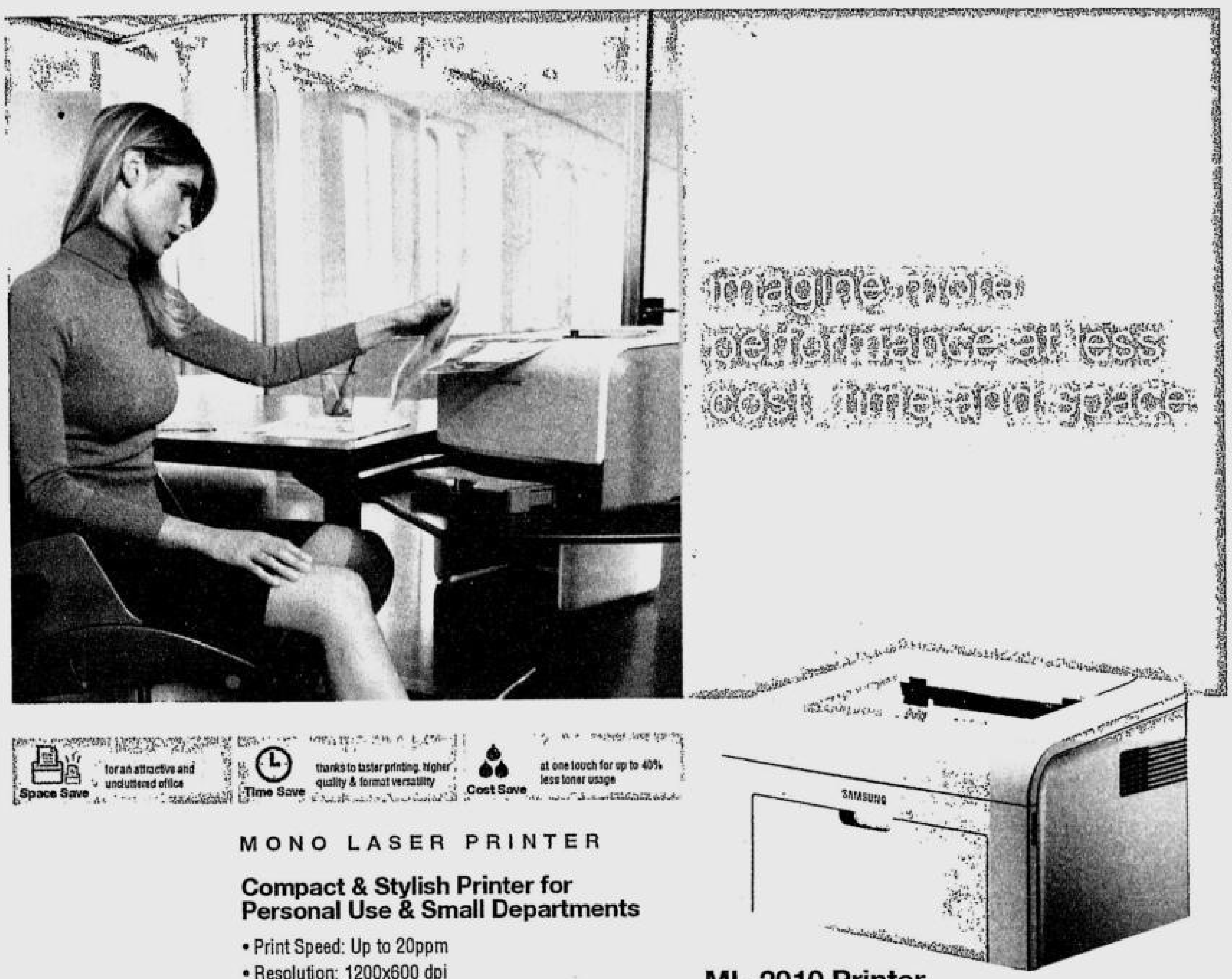
It took 15 draws since Sept. 30 before someone finally won the pot. It was also the 15th time, since the PCSO lotto was launched on March 8, 1995, that the pot exceeded P100 million.

The latest jackpot winner won the second biggest lotto prize, after the Cebu-based businessman who won the P126-million pot in the June 3 Super Lotto 6/49 draw. The historic Super Lotto 6/49 draw with a P202 million pot was won on Oct. 17, 2002 by six bettors.

Cedro said that even if the winner does not claim the prize in the next few days, the claimant has until Nov. 18, 2008 to collect the P105 million pot.

Should the pot not be claimed after this grace period lapses, the entire amount goes to charity.

Jeannette I. Andrade



Imagine more performance at less cost, time and space.

Space Save for an attractive and uncluttered office
Time Save thanks to faster printing, higher quality & format versatility
Cost Save at one touch for up to 40% less toner usage

MONO LASER PRINTER

Compact & Stylish Printer for Personal Use & Small Departments

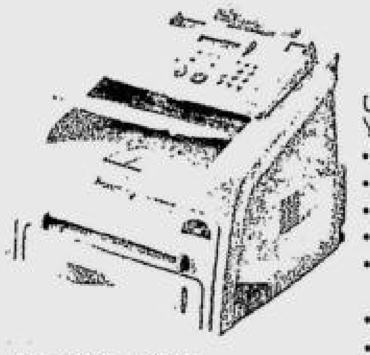
- Print Speed: Up to 20ppm
- Resolution: 1200x600 dpi
- Input Capacity: 150-sheet Multi-Purpose Tray
- Output Capacity: 100-sheet Face Down
- Interface: USB 1.1 (Compatible with USB 2.0)
- OS Compatibility: Windows, Macintosh and Linux
- Special Feature: Toner Save Button

ML-2010 Printer
P4,995

MULTI FUNCTION PRINTERS

SCX-4521F Printer

Versatile & Affordable 4-in-1 MFP for Medium Sized Business
- Functionality: Copy • Scan • Print • Fax
- Print Speed: Up to 20 ppm (A4)
- Resolution: 600x600 dpi
- Fax Speed: 33.6 kbps
- Interface: USB 1.1 (compatible with USB 2.0), IEEE 1284 Parallel
- Compatible with Windows, Macintosh, Linux
- Advanced Digital Copy Features ID Copy, Auto-fit, Clone, Poster, Collation
- 250 Sheet Casette Tray



SF-565P Printer

Compact 5-in-1 MFP Perfect for Your Home Office & Personal Use
- Functionality: Copy • Scan • Print • Fax • Phone
- Print Speed: Up to 16 ppm
- Resolution 600x600 dpi (print)
- Fax Speed: 33.6 kbps
- Interface: USB 1.1 (compatible with USB 2.0), IEEE 1284 Parallel
- OS Compatibility: Windows, Macintosh, Linux
- 250 Sheet Casette Tray
- Special Features: One-touch Toner / Toll Save Buttons, 96-hour Battery Back-up, Professional Print Layouts: Multi-Pages per Side, Fit to Page, Poster, Watermark and Overlay

COLOR LASER PRINTER

CLP-300 Printer

The World's Smallest and Lightest Color Laser Printer
- Print Speed: Up to 16 ppm in B/W(A4), 4 ppm in color (A4)
- Resolution: 2400x600 dpi
- Input Capacity: 150-sheet Cassette Tray
- Output Capacity: 100-sheet Face Down
- Interface: USB 2.0
- OS Compatibility: Windows, Macintosh, Linux
- Special Features: The world's smallest and lightest Color Laser Printer, Only 48dB (Lowest Noise Level in its Class), Unique Toners, Easy Toner Change

Samsung Customer Contact Center: **TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG** for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel.

SAMSUNG

SORENTO P28,985 Monthly
NEW CARNIVAL P24,287 Monthly
SPORTAGE P19,370 Monthly
CARENS P16,352 Monthly
Rio P11,394 Monthly
picanto P9,795 Monthly

KIA
SIGNET
MANDALUYONG
79 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tels.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949; 531-4424
SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

DID YOU KNOW

ON NOV. 21, 2003, Jaime Cardinal Sin stepped down as archbishop of Manila after holding the post for 29 years. He was the 30th Manila archbishop and the third Filipino cardinal. The influential spiritual leader participated in the ouster of two presidents: Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada in 2001. Sin passed away in June 2005 at the age of 76. He was succeeded by Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

EXTREME BIKER
An extreme sports athlete is silhouetted against the sky as he rides his bike during a practice session at the Marikina Sports Complex in Marikina City. RUDY ESPERAS

Mystery girl was insured

But who is beneficiary of alleged rape-slay victim?

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation yesterday said that Geraldine Palma, the 7-year-old girl believed to had been kidnapped, raped and killed by her captors, was covered by a personal accident insurance policy.

This contradicted the earlier claim of Palma's father, Gerald, that his daughter did not have any insurance policy.

NBI Special Task Force chief Arnel Dalumpines said that Palma had a P40,000 personal accident insurance with Philam Insurance which was effective "from July 13, 2007 to 2008."

The information came from lawyer Isagani Acosta, Philam vice president for claims.

Acosta, however, did not say who paid for the policy and who Palma's beneficiaries were.

Palma, a student of St. Paul College Pasig, disappeared with her nanny, Marites Ontog, last August. A few days later, the body of a girl believed to be Palma was found inside a suitcase in Tondo, Manila.

The girl's body, which was buried at the Manila Memorial Park, was exhumed on Sept. 24 after police investigators began raising doubts about whether or not the victim was Palma because her physical features did not match the one listed in her school records.

A DNA test was conducted by the NBI to confirm the identity of the victim but the result has yet to be released.

"This inquiry was part of our investigation since we're looking at all possible angles, like if it was insurance fraud," Dalumpines said. "Right now, we're still waiting for the response of other insurance firms to determine if Palma was covered by other insurance policies apart from Philam Insurance."

Personal accident insurance is a yearly renewable plan available to individuals. The terms of the plan include accidental deaths due to unseen or unplanned circumstances, including death due to being a victim of a crime, according to a Philam Insurance staff.

The mystery of Palma's death deepened on Sunday when her mother, Angie "Felma" Estravela, said in a sworn statement to the Manila police that the corpse found inside the suitcase was not that of her child and that her husband, Gerald, received P1 million in insurance benefits.

Estravela, however, later told a television reporter that she was retracting her statement.

MPD probe of Dalaig slay shifts to allegations of theft

By Beverly T. Natividad
and Allison W. Lopez

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT has temporarily shifted its attention from the investigation of the killing of an election official to looking into allegations that some of the victim's belongings and money were taken by some policemen.

Supt. Nelson Yabut, chief of the MPD criminal investigation and detection unit, was at the Commission on Elections office yesterday to take down statements from two of Alioden Dalaig's staff.

Dalaig, the chief of the poll body's law department, was shot dead by an unknown gunman on Nov. 10 at the corner of M.H. Del Pilar and Pedro Gil Streets in Ermita, Manila.

The staff members, Yabut said, could provide the police with information on what Dalaig was carrying when he was killed.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, MPD director, the other day ordered the relief of Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, the head of the MPD homicide division and SPO4 Benito Cabatbat, one of the case investigators, following complaints from Dalaig's family.

According to the victim's kin, some P7,000 in cash and a two-karat ring were missing when the police turned over to them Dalaig's personal belongings. They also accused the police of substituting the victim's bracelet with a fake one.

Yanquiling, meanwhile, said the accusations against him and Cabatbat were designed to divert attention from Dalaig's killing.

He added that he and his men were about to conduct a manhunt for the suspects when he received Rosales' order relieving him.

"We had already identified the group of suspects through the close-circuit television footage, including the lookouts," Yanquiling said.

He added that the money turned over to the family was only handed to Cabatbat by the staff of the Ospital ng Maynila where Dalaig was taken after he was shot. There was no diamond ring given by the hospital staff, he said.

According to him, they have an informant who has provided information linking Dalaig to "a big scandal."

Comelec Commissioner Florentino Tuason, on the other hand, said Yanquiling had no basis to make such an allegation.

"It is unfair to allude to someone who cannot defend himself," said Tuason.

Have Your Own FRANCHISE Now!
New York City's No.1 All Beef Hotdog!
It's so yummy even celebrities love it!
Sabrett Hotdogs as seen in Hollywood movies!
For inquiries, pls. call: 899-9126 / 890-5409 or (0917) 420-8252

Your grand staircase

Step into a place both familiar and fresh, yet definitely comfortable. As the warmth of the people compliments the majestic sights, you will surely declare you are home.

JOSEPH H. DURANO
Secretary
Department of Tourism

your official roaming partner
SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

Philippines
Your Home in Asia

Makati City makes way for electric car's debut in first public route

By Jerome Aning

TWO ELECTRICITY-POWERED jeepneys or e-jeepneys began plying a set route in Makati City yesterday, part of a two-month pilot test run to fine tune their adaptability as a commercial public transport.

The e-jeepneys, presented to the public last July 4 by the Makati City government, Green Independent Power Producer (GRIPP) and Greenpeace, will be picking up passengers in Bel-Air Village and unloading them at Rockwell Center and vice versa.

This is the the first public route to be used by the e-jeepneys which offer free rides to commuters.

Greenpeace-Southeast Asian and GRIPP officials, however, criticized the Land Transportation Office for the delay in the issuance of the vehicles' registration papers.

In a statement, Greenpeace said the e-jeepneys' route was limited to private roads as the LTO had not yet classified the vehicle.

The LTO said it must first get a certification from the Department of Science and Technology on the specifics of the e-jeepneys before it can formulate the rules on registering this type of vehicle.

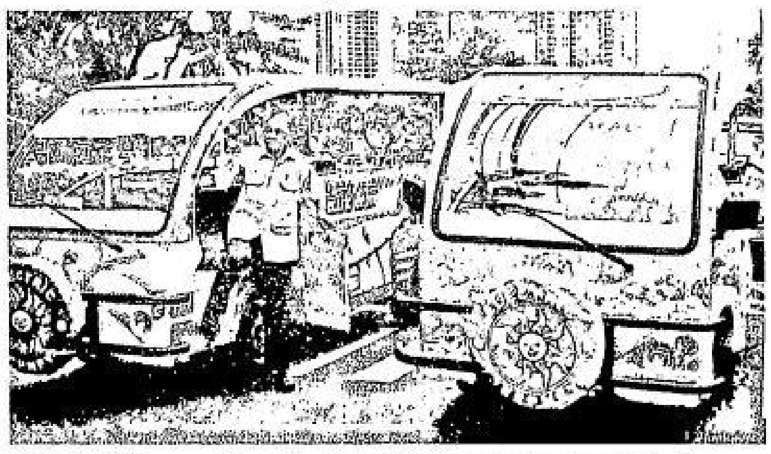
GRIPP and Greenpeace called on concerned government agencies to fast track the classification and registration of the electric jeepneys and to create the right regulatory framework and environmental policy so that the vehicles could start plying commercial routes.

"The climate problem exacerbates urban environmental challenges for our cities. The national government should take this seriously and heed the international scientific community's findings that governments should quickly find and implement climate solutions of which the e-jeepney is an example," said Jasper Investor, a climate and energy campaigner of Greenpeace.

Inventor said Makati had shown leadership by pioneering projects that address air pollution and climate change.

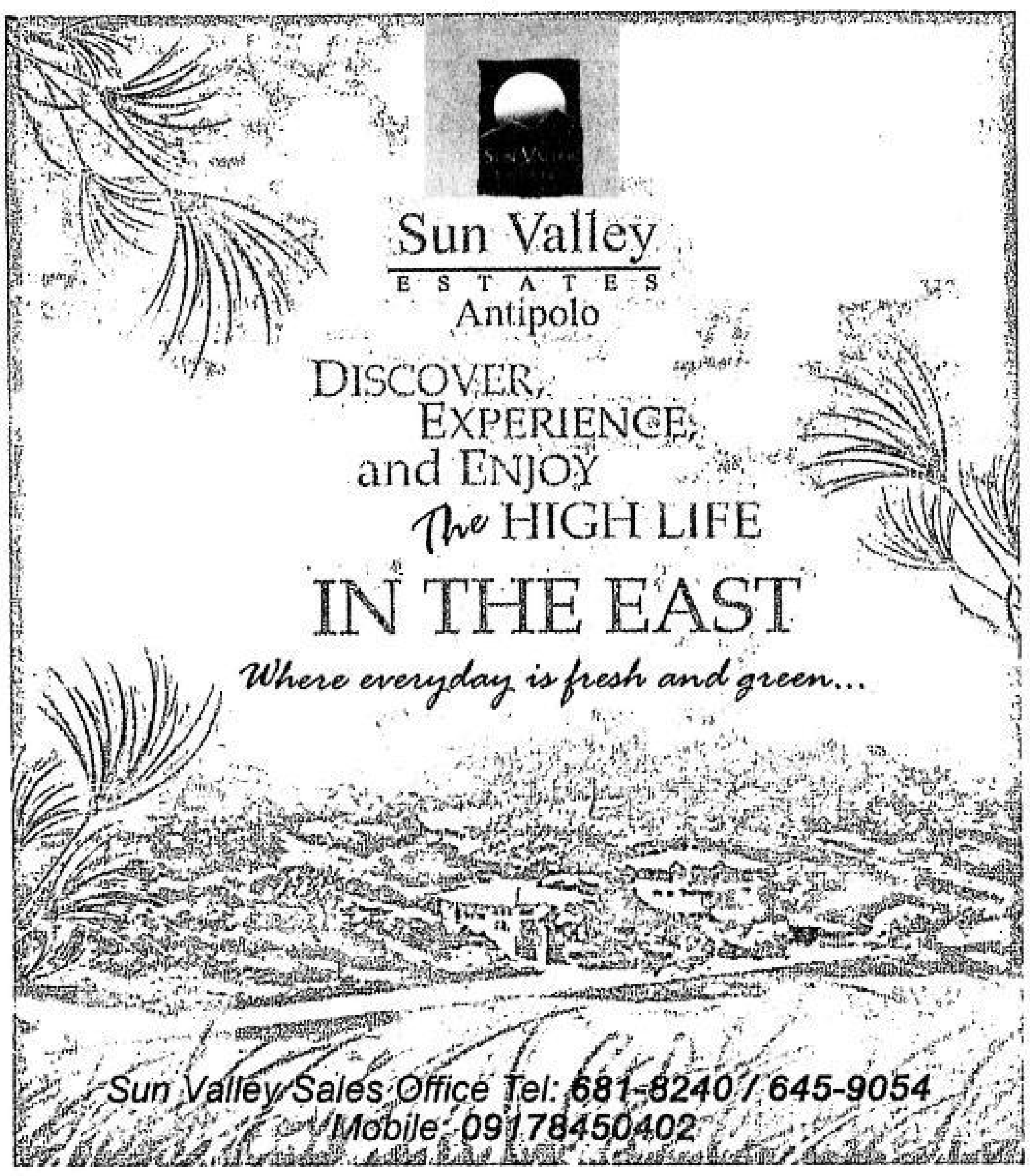
Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said he was "very optimistic" about the e-jeepneys' test phase and that the vehicles would soon become a common sight in the city.

"The e-jeepneys will offer a cheaper fuel alternative to jeepney drivers while creating a positive impact in the city's air quality," he added.



BEL-AIR Village residents in Makati City are in for a treat. For the next two months, jeepneys that run on electricity or e-jeeps will be giving free rides to commuters in the area for unloading at Rockwell Center and vice versa.

REM ZAMORA



Sun Valley
ESTATES
Antipolo

DISCOVER,
EXPERIENCE,
and ENJOY
The HIGH LIFE
IN THE EAST

Where everyday is fresh and green...

Sun Valley Sales Office Tel: 681-8240 / 645-9054
Mobile: 09178450402

Engineer in Ozone case cleared

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS AFfirmed its earlier decision acquitting former Quezon City engineer Alfredo Macapugay who had been charged with reckless imprudence in connection with the Ozone Disco fire that killed more than 100 people in 1996.

The antigraft court's Third Division said the issues raised by government lawyers in their petition asking the court to reconsider its ruling were a rehash of old arguments.

In acquitting Macapugay more than three months ago, the court ruled that the prosecution had failed to prove the QC official's "authorship" of the crime.

It also pointed out that there was not enough evidence to show that Macapugay granted permits to the club without first inspecting the establishment.

The engineer was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries for allegedly neglecting to validate the safety of the disco house's plans and facilities during its construction and renovation in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

In asking the court to reconsider its decision acquitting Macapugay, prosecutors maintained that the case was not anchored on command responsibility but on the engineer's "nonperformance" of duties required of him under the law.

"The prosecution is seeking the conviction of the accused not because he delegated his authority but because he failed to evaluate the documents submitted by the Ozone Disco owners," the lawyers said.

They also challenged the ruling as it did not contain a certification from Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro that the decision was reached following consultations among members of the division.

The court, however, found the prosecution's petition "devoid of merit."

"The prosecution's evidence should stand or fall on its own strength (or weakness)," it said.

It also added that the signatures of the three members of Third Division—Chair Godofredo Legaspi and Associate Justices Efren de la Cruz and Norberto Geraldez—clearly showed that the resolution was reached following deliberations among them.

METROBRIEFS

Lawmaker eyes new site for Valenzuela hospital

A PUBLIC lot managed by the Department of Transportation and Communication is being eyed as the new site of the Valenzuela City Medical Center. Rep. Rex Gatchalian, of the city's second district, has filed a bill asking the DOTC to allow the transfer of the hospital to the site, previously reserved for a telecommunication training center. He promised to use his Priority Development Assistant Fund for the construction and improvement of a bigger hospital which, he added, would benefit residents of the city and nearby areas. The lot is located on the MacArthur Highway. Gatchalian said that he and Health Secretary Francisco Duque III recently inspected the site and the latter agreed to endorse the project to the DOTC. The lawmaker added that Duque also promised to allocate P50 million for the rehabilitation of the public hospital. Gatchalian said that he has already submitted a proposal on the matter to Transportation and Communication Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso III.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Your swimming pool

Immerse yourself in our warm waters. No wonder it's home to over a thousand aquatic flora and fauna, all as welcoming as the other species living on land.

JOSEPH H. DURANO
Secretary
Department of Tourism

your official roaming partner
SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

Log onto Smart with your mobile phone:
Go to 'Phone Settings', select 'Manual Network Selection' and choose 'PH SMART'. www.smart.com.ph

Philippines
Your Home in Asia

A CONNECTION TO HOME

SMART and DOT welcomes everyone to their Home in Asia

Joseph Durano, Department of Tourism Secretary, and Danilo Mojica, head of SMART's Wireless Consumer Division, celebrate DOT and SMART's strong three-year partnership.

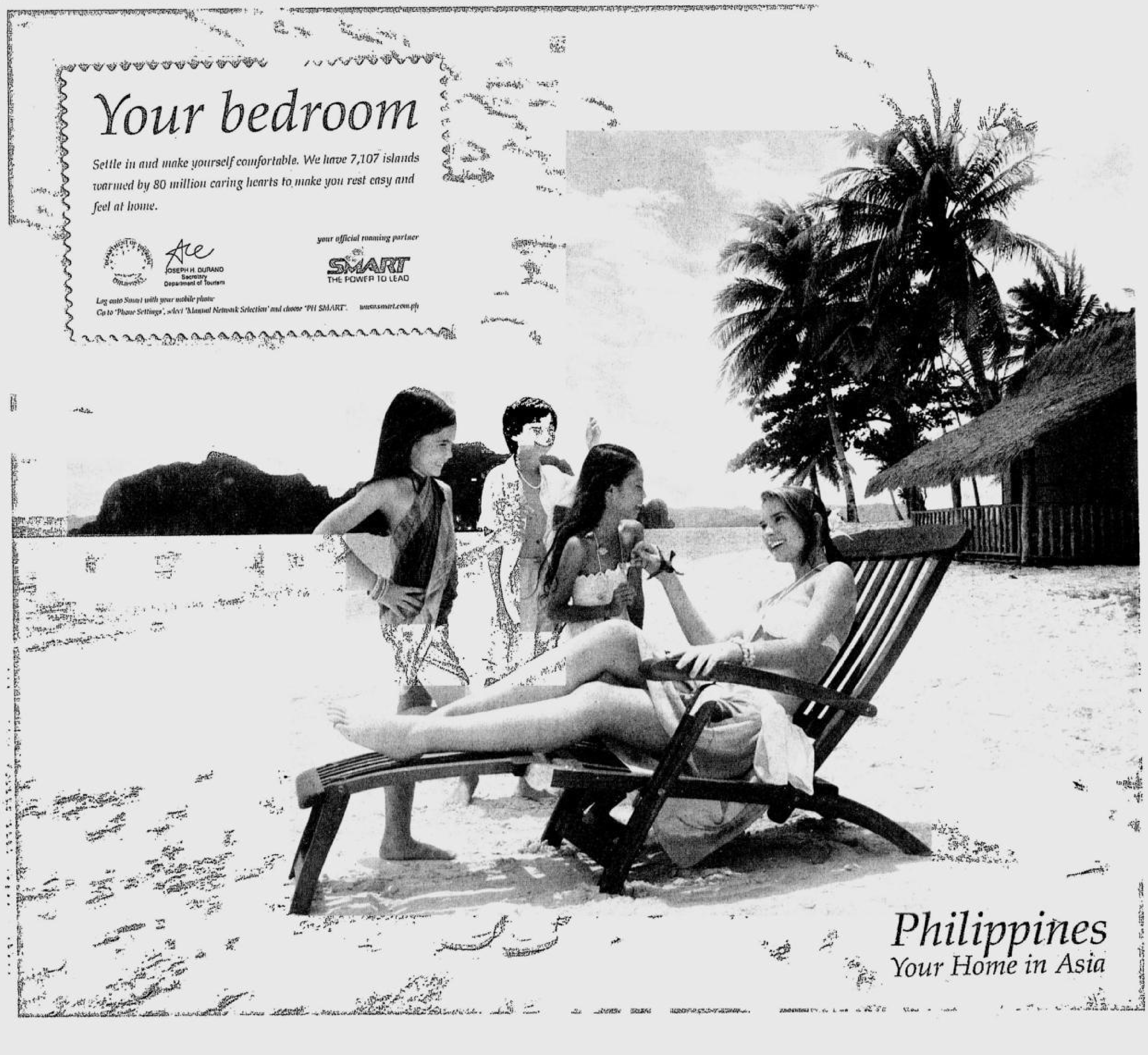
Beyond the glistening beaches of El Nido, the extraordinary rice terraces, and the vibrant colors of Zamboanga vintas, it has always been the warmth of the Filipino hospitality that has made the Philippines everyone's home in Asia. And for three years now, SMART has consistently helped the Department of Tourism deliver that friendly message across. A message filled with tender smiles and sincere kindness that can only come from a Filipino.

Just recently, Department of Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano and SMART created a campaign that highlighted the Filipino's welcoming demeanor. Entitled "Home", the commercials mainly focused on the friendly Filipinos while still featuring the different sights of the country. Through print and TV, "Home" lovingly states that whoever you are, wherever you come from, the Philippines has its arms wide open for you.

Danilo J. Mojica, head of SMART Wireless Consumer Division, and Secretary Durano were both very pleased with the outcome of their partnership. As a result, the Department of Tourism is looking to create more projects with SMART in the future while the mobile network is prepared to back them up with its impeccable line of services. SMART IDD, for example, has never failed tourists and Filipinos alike in providing them with outstanding mobile connection. Such is the case for many years now earning SMART the status of being the country's biggest mobile network to the world.

Secretary Durano further commends SMART in the company's effort to promote Philippine tourism, "Thanks to SMART, our jobs have become easier, helping us reach more and more people all over the world."

Indeed, as witnessed in "Home", SMART embodies the spirit of Filipino hospitality – genuine service that welcomes everyone from different parts of the world like long lost family. You are home with SMART. You are home in the Philippines.



Settle in and make yourself comfortable. We have 7,107 islands warmed by 80 million caring hearts to make you rest easy and feel at home.

JOSEPH H. DURANO
Secretary
Department of Tourism

your official roaming partner

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

Log onto Smart with your mobile phone
Go to 'Phone Settings', select 'Manual Network Selection' and choose 'PH SMART'. www.smart.com.ph

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

BANGLADESH CYCLONE

Survivors cry for more aid

SISTERS Fatema Begam, right, and Layla Banu comfort each other Tuesday in Patharghata. AP

BANGLADESH SOUGHT MORE foreign aid on Tuesday to help thousands of survivors of Cyclone Sidr after the storm mauled the country's coast and killed more than 3,100 people, according to an official tally that was expected to rise.

Food, fresh water and temporary shelter had still not reached many of the hungry and exhausted survivors.

"At this time we will welcome support from the international community," said a statement from Bangladesh foreign ministry. "We are doing as best as we can do ourselves," it said.

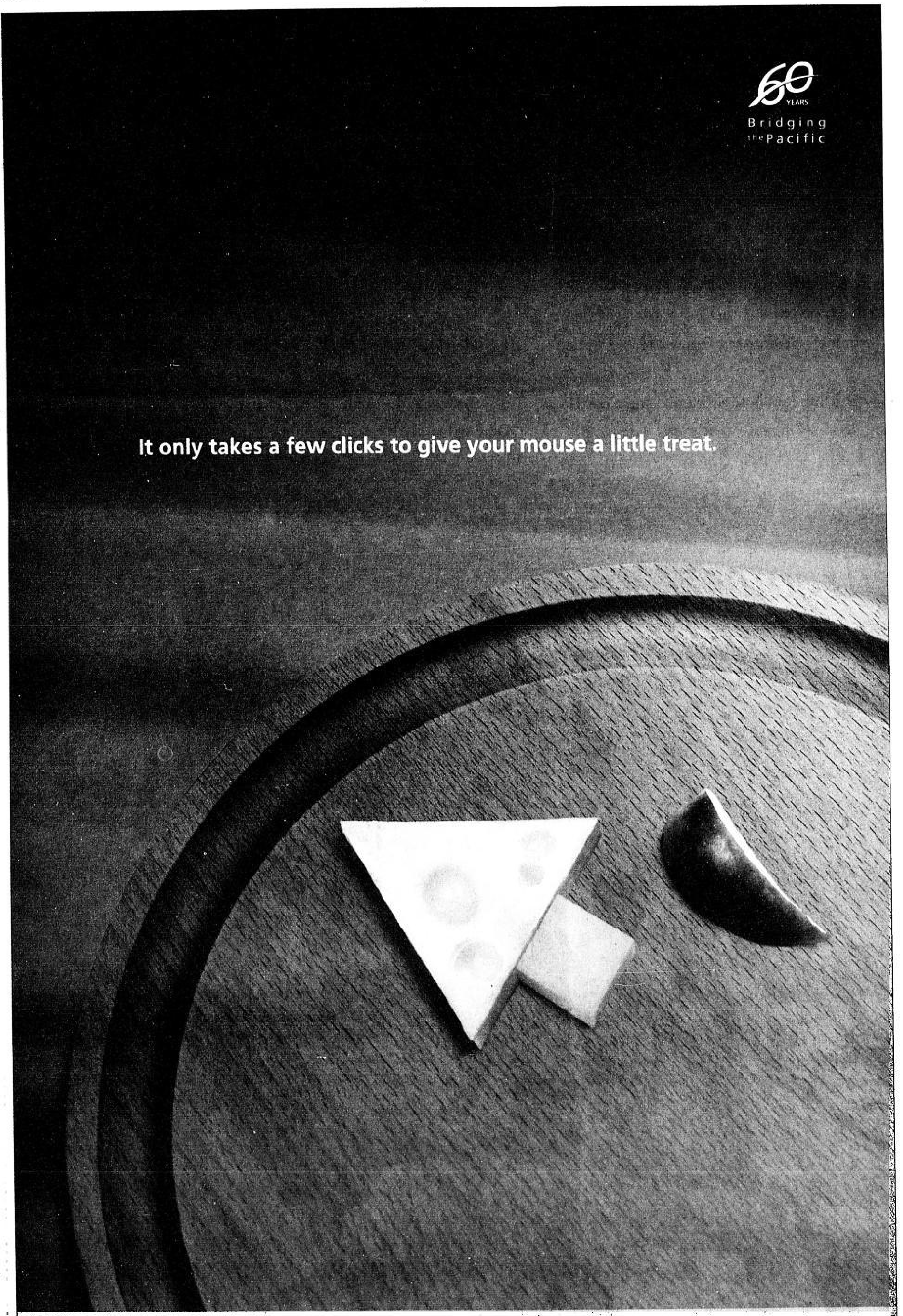
The government said international aid worth about $120 million has so far been promised. But relief items such as tents, rice and water have been slow to reach most survivors of the worst cyclone to hit Bangladesh in a decade.

At Patharghata, a hard-hit trading town along the Bay of Bengal, more than 100 women—many of them clad in veils—gathered Tuesday hoping to get aid.

"I've been waiting here for several hours hoping to get some food and drinking water," said Safura Begum, who has three children. "But I'm not sure it will come."

"Some biscuits and a few bottles of water are what I've gotten in the past three days," the 45-year-old said.

The government is using helicopters and boats to get aid to the tens of thousands of survivors left homeless and desperate for help when the cyclone tore across the Bangladesh coast last Thursday. *AP*


60 YEARS
Bridging the Pacific
It only takes a few clicks to give your mouse a little treat.

With Northwest Airlines® E-Services you can fly your way, whatever suits your taste. Select your favorite seat onboard from your favorite seat at home. And it only takes a mouse click to print your boarding pass, wherever you are. It's also simple to book online or even manage your reservations and WorldPerks® account online. Visit nwa.com/ph to start planning a trip that suits your taste today. Now you're flying smart.

Click and fly your way with nwa.com/ph
Visit nwa.com/asia/eservice to learn how to earn up to 6,000 Bonus Miles by using Northwest E-Services.

Flying smart.™ nwa NORTHWEST AIRLINES® SKYTEAM

WORLDBRIEFS

Iran agrees to new talks

TEHRAN—Iran has agreed to a new round of talks with the United States on Iraq after Washington made an offer via the Swiss embassy in Tehran, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Tuesday. Mottaki told reporters that Iran has agreed to the new talks within the framework of its policy of helping the Iraqi people. "The exact date of the new talks will be announced in the near future," he said. Iran and the United States have already held three rounds of talks over Iraq this year. But they failed to achieve a major breakthrough and did not stray into other contentious issues between the arch foes, namely Tehran's controversial nuclear program. *AFP*

UN: 32-M people have AIDS

GENEVA—A total of 2.5 million people around the world have been infected with HIV/AIDS this year and 32.2 million are now living with the virus, an annual United Nations report on the epidemic said on Tuesday. Revised figures in the latest UNAIDS study also slashed an estimate for total infections this time last year to 32.7 million from 39.5 million cases, the number given in the agency's 2006 report. More than two million people have died from the disease in 2007, according to the UN's HIV/AIDS body. *AFP*

Great-grandson in trouble

SYDNEY—The great-grandson of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pleaded guilty on Tuesday to knowingly taking part in a multimillion dollar ecstasy racket. Police arrested Nicholas Jake Barton at his Sydney home in June last year during a series of raids in which officers seized some 250,000 ecstasy tablets worth around $13 million. The 33-year-old Briton, who is the son of James Barton and Arabella Spencer Churchill, pleaded guilty before Sydney's Local Court to knowingly taking part in the supply of a commercial quantity of a prohibited drug. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. *AP*

Japan starts fingerprinting

NARITA—Japan started fingerprinting and photographing arriving foreigners on Tuesday in a crackdown on terrorists, despite complaints that the measures unfairly target non-Japanese. Nearly all foreigners aged 16 or over, including longtime residents, will be scanned. The only exceptions are diplomats, government guests and permanent residents such as Koreans who have lived in Japan for generations. Tokyo has staunchly backed the US-led attacks on Iraq and Afghanistan, raising fears Japan could be targeted by terrorists. Officials said the new security measures, while inconvenient for visitors, were necessary. *AP*

Diana might have survived?

LONDON—Princess Diana might have survived her car crash in 1997 if French medics had brought her to a hospital faster than they did, a leading British surgeon has told an inquest into her death. Prof. Thomas Treasure, a former president of the European Association for Cardio-thoracic Surgery, said on Monday that the medics had done "very substantial good" in the initial period after the accident but that once Diana was in the ambulance time began "slipping away." Dr. Treasure, who was asked to review records of the treatment given to Diana for coroner Lord Justice Scott Baker, conceded that the princess' internal injuries were serious. But he said it was theoretically possible that she might have been saved. Diana died after a Mercedes carrying her slammed into a pillar in the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris while being pursued by paparazzi on the night of Aug. 31, 1997. The crash also killed Diana's boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, and their driver Henri Paul. French and British police have concluded that Paul, the acting security chief at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, was well over the legal alcohol limit when the accident occurred. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Magic, Jazz find rhythm /A29

SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres** *Assistant Editor* **Francis T. J. Ochoa**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Svenson Saved My Hair!
Call 892-HAIR (4247)

Pacquiao to challenge champ Diaz

By Hermie Rivera
Contributor

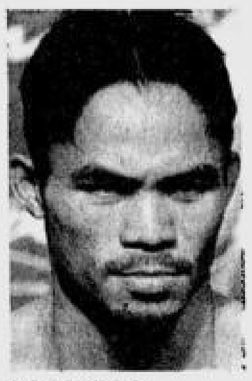
PLANS ARE SLOWLY TAKING shape for Manny Pacquiao to gun for the WBC lightweight belt of champion David Diaz in March next year.

Pacquiao, who pummeled Mexican great Marco Antonio Barrera into retirement two months ago, will be meeting with promoter Bob Arum on Thanksgiving night in Las Vegas to discuss the details of the fight, according to sources in Team Pacquiao.

It will easily be the biggest fight for the Filipino ring icon to date, one that involves a world title and a very fat check.

The choice of Diaz as a foe came after Pacquiao's camp dropped Juan Manuel Marquez and Juan Diaz from the roster of probable opponents when he fights in the first quarter of next year at a still undisclosed location.

Key details of the bout that will assure both Pacquiao and Diaz of their biggest purses ever will be released after Thursday's dinner, the same sources said.



PACQUIAO

Dethroning Diaz would give the Filipino hero his third world championship. He had been the World Boxing Council flyweight titleholder and International Boxing Federation superbantam king.

Arum said on Monday that he still wanted Pacquiao to fight Oscar de la Hoya at 147 pounds.

Pacquiao owns two knockout victories over Erik Morales, the Mexican legend whom Diaz outpointed on Aug. 4 in Chicago.

Sources in the Pacquiao camp said the Filipino's new friendship with Morales could be one of the biggest reasons why he is going after Diaz.

Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, however, said WBC super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez is still a logical choice considering the two fought to a controversial draw the first time they met (*See related story below*).

L.A. CAR ACCESSORIES
TINT ROOM
AIRCONDITIONED • DUST FREE
ALL MAJOR BRANDS AVAILABLE
V-KOOL
3M
SOLARGARD
SUNGARD
H.I.D.
XENON LIGHTS
Available for all cars
Php 7,999.00 SPECIAL PRICE
INSTALLATION & FREE LASER ALIGNMENT 18 MONTHS WARRANTY
IN CAR ENTERTAINMENT
KENWOOD
JVC
BLAUPUNKT.
Pioneer
AUDIOVOX
FULL LINE OF AUDIO & VIDEO PRODUCTS
7280 Mayapis cor. Malugay St., San Antonio Vill., Makati City Tel. nos.: 817-8617 • 813-2338
Cel. no.: 0917-8178617 Website: www.LAcaraccessories.com

Gym closed for Pacman shoot

RENOWNED TRAINER FREDDIE Roach will do something he has not done in quite a long while: Close the doors of his Wild Card Gym for a day to give way to a commercial shoot by Nike, starring Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao.

"Nike is doing a commercial on training, and they picked their top 10 athletes in the world," said Roach in an interview with Boxingtalk.com yesterday. "Manny was one of the athletes that they picked."

"I will be closing the gym for the first time in 12 years for a commercial shoot," added Roach. "I am only doing this for Pacquiao."

Pacquiao will arrive in Los Angeles today to film the Nike commercial, and will also personally grace his brother Bobby's fight on Friday against Fernando Trejo at the Morongo Casino Resort and Spa in Cabazon, California.

Roach also confirmed reports that Pacquiao is set to decide this week on who his next opponent will be. The trainer said that although WBC lightweight champ David Diaz heads the list of favorites (*see related story above*), WBC super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez remains a logical choice.

"It's the most logical, we fought to a draw last time," said Roach of the Marquez bout. "If we don't fight Marquez next, we could move up to 135 pounds and fight David Diaz. People want to see the Marquez rematch, and Pacquiao wants to fight the best guys out there."

Pacquiao and Marquez battled to a split draw when they first crossed paths in 2004.

Salven Lagumbay, Contributor

MEET YOUR MATCH.
• CUSTOM MACHINE PRESSED BRACKETS
• THE FIRST NO-HOLES BORED INSTALLATION
• THE FIRST IN BUILT-IN COURTESY LIGHTS
• CUSTOM DESIGNED ABS ENDCAPS & ALUMINUM SECTIONS
• WITH WARRANTY AND AFTER SALES SERVICE SUPPORT.
SHARK www.sharkphil.com
ADVENTURE AVANZA D-MAX FRONTIER RANGER SORENTO SUZUKI APV X-TRAIL
CR-V ESCAPE FORTUNER OUTLANDER REVO STAREX TUCSON
SURESTEP 1013A EDSA, VETERAN'S VILLAGE, PROJ. 7, QUEZON CITY TEL.; 410-3067 / 65 • 372-3640
We deliver to or install at your home or office.(Metro Manila Only)

Dragons tackle Realtors

UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, two-game runs don't necessarily merit that much attention in the PBA—unless the victims in both games happen to be powerhouse sides.

Welcoat puts its impressive mini run at stake when the Dragons, who have been breathing fire of late, clash with on-and-off Sta. Lucia in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

Game time is 7:20 p.m.

Welcoat conquered rock-solid Magnolia and Talk 'N Text in a five-day span, the first time that the franchise won back-to-back games. And, however short the streak, it caught a lot of attention and gave the Dragons a lot of needed confidence.

"I still can't believe it," coach Leo Austria said after humbling the Beverage Masters last week. "I don't know what it is that we have other than hard work and prayers. And with that, the boys are starting to believe in the system and now believe that we can win."

Purefoods, its league-best seven-game run snapped over the weekend, battles Alaska in the first game at 4:35 p.m.

The Tender Juicy Giants fell to Red Bull in Tacloban, 87-74, and are looking to take the first step toward another streak when they go up against the Aces, who could reclaim a piece of second place with a win.

No. 1 pick Joe Devance will again be at the forefront of the Welcoat game on both ends, with scoring support to come from Jay-R Reyes and Nic Belasco.

Musong R. Castillo

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	7	1
Magnolia	5	3
Talk 'N Text	5	3
Alaska	4	3
Red Bull	4	3
Welcoat	3	4
Air21	3	4
Sta. Lucia	3	4
Brgy. Ginebra	2	6
Coca-Cola	1	6

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska
7:20 p.m.—Welcoat vs Sta. Lucia

www.hondaphil.com
HONDA The Power of Dreams
Proven TOTALLY Amazing fuel economy
TOTALLY Amazing i-VTEC FUEL ECO

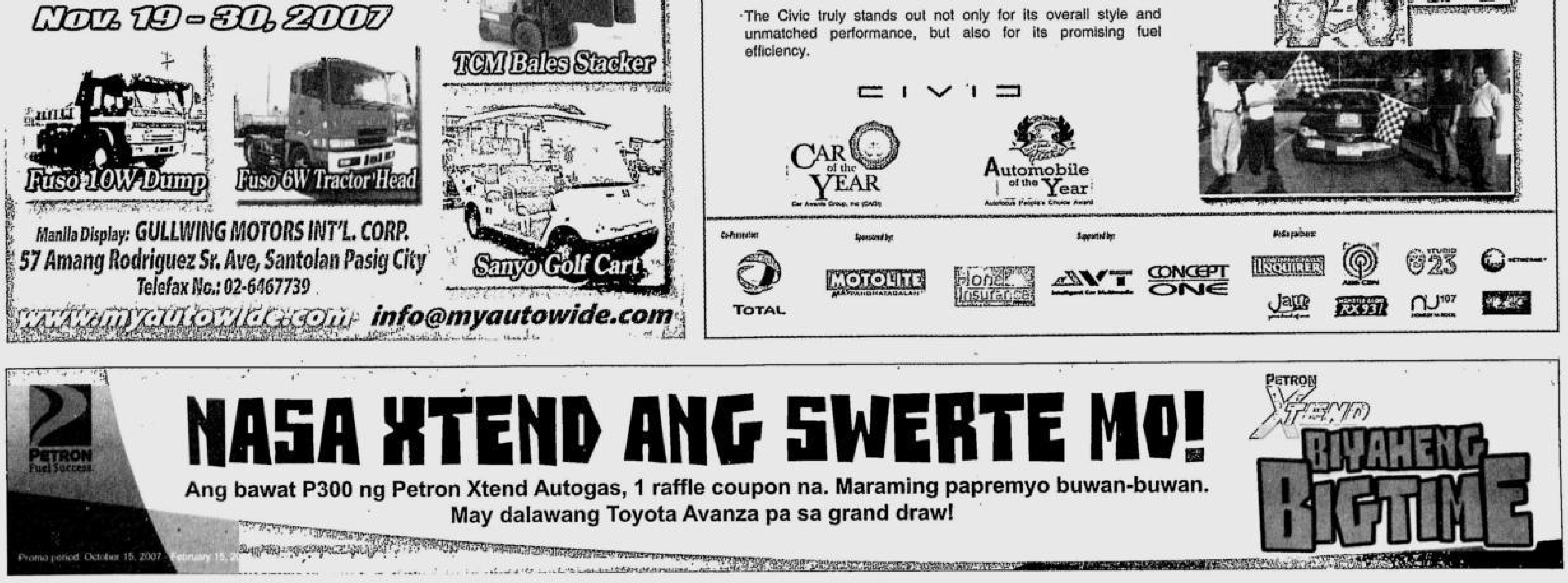
Class above features and style. Unmatched handling and performance. The New Generation Honda Civic exudes beauty and power inside and out. And after four legs of the Totally Amazing Fuel Eco Run through the congested city roads of Metro Manila and the fast freeways from Balintawak to Angeles City, the Honda Civic proves that it has more than just that.

In line with Honda's efforts to promote fuel economy through effective driving techniques, the Totally Amazing Fuel Eco Run encouraged regular motorists to subject the Civic's i-VTEC engine to a fuel efficiency challenge. Honda Civic owners achieved remarkable results at this fuel efficiency fun competition. They posted an average fuel mileage of ***14 km/li for city driving using manual transmission*** and ***22 km/li for highway driving using automatic transmission.***

The Civic truly stands out not only for its overall style and unmatched performance, but also for its promising fuel efficiency.

CIVIC
CAR of the YEAR
Automobile of the Year
Co-Presenter: TOTAL
Sponsored by: MOTOLITE
Supported by: Honda Insurance AVT CONCEPT ONE
Media partners: INQUIRER Studio 23 Jam RX 93.1 NU 107

AUTOWIDE INT'L. (SUBIC) CORP.
Lot C Rizal Highway, Subic Gateway, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. No.: 047-2521221 Telefax No.: 047-2521223
BIG PRICE CUT
Nov. 19 - 30, 2007
Asutora Generator / Welder
TCM Bales Stacker
Fuso 10W Dump
Fuso 6W Tractor Head
Sanyo Golf Cart
Manila Display: GULLWING MOTORS INT'L. CORP.
57 Amang Rodriguez Sr. Ave, Santolan Pasig City
Telefax No.: 02-6467739
www.myautowide.com info@myautowide.com



PETRON Fuel Success.
NASA XTEND ANG SWERTE MO!
Ang bawat P300 ng Petron Xtend Autogas, 1 raffle coupon na. Maraming papremyo buwan-buwan.
May dalawang Toyota Avanza pa sa grand draw!
PETRON XTEND BIYAHENG BIGTIME
Promo period: October 15, 2007 - February 15, 2

Lady Stags tie Tigresses for V-League lead

By Romina S. Austria

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE FOUND ITS WAY back to the top while Ateneo ousted arch rival La Salle from the title race yesterday in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Stags looked ready for a walk in the park against the Adamson Lady Falcons. Instead, they went through five sets before pulling through, 21-25, 31-29, 25-16, 22-25, 15-7.

San Sebastian caught up anew with idle University of Santo Tomas for the lead at 8-1.

In the second game, Ateneo dealt La Salle its second semifinal loss, 25-21, 22-25, 25-19, 25-15, to improve its chance for a finals seat.

La Salle has one more game left but is already out of contention in the tournament it won two years ago over San Sebastian.

With the Lady Eagles' win, either San Sebastian or Santo Tomas should sweep its last two matches to avoid a playoff.

The Lady Falcons, already out of it, took the first set and had four chances to erect a 2-0 lead, but were frustrated by the Lady Stags.

Hapee, Harbour gain semis

RYAN LIM

HARBOUR's Gerwin Gaco fakes off Mail and More's Lawrence Bonus (left) and Khiel Misa.

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—San Mig Coffee vs Bacchus
4 p.m.—Pharex vs Hapee

By Jasmine W. Payo

REED JUNTILLA CLUSTERED nine straight points in the homestretch as Hapee Toothpaste streaked to its sixth straight win, 79-75, over Toyota Balintawak yesterday and clinched an outright PBL semifinal berth in the V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup at the Rizal Coliseum.

Despite the victory, Hapee coach Jun Noel said there will be no letup for the Complete Protectors, who posted their franchise-best start.

"There's still pressure, we want to stay at No. 1," said Noel.

Harbour Centre clinched the same semifinal incentive in the first game after snapping Mail and More's three-game winning run, 74-66, for a second-best 6-1 slate.

Scoreless in the first half, Juntilla sparked a telling 9-1 spurt to give the Hapee a 70-64 edge heading into the last two minutes after trailing at 61-63.

The Road Kings threatened at 71-69 behind Erwin Sta. Maria before Juntilla responded with a layup with 38.3 seconds remaining.

Solomon Mercado also took over the scoring chores for Harbour Centre by pouring eight points in a 15-4 run that gave the three-time champions a 54-42 cushion late in the third canto.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 74—Mercado 16, Ababou 13, Gaco 12, Tang 9, Asoro 6, Cañizares 5, Malabanan 4, Maierhofer 3, Taylor 2, Vergara 2, Gonzales 2, Gamboa 0.

MAIL AND MORE 66—Arellano 15, Misa 8, Santos 7, Gregorio 7, Co 5, Masbang 5, Baracael 5, Bonus 4, David 4, Canlas 2, Bauzon 2, Ballesteros 2.

Quarters: 17-21, 33-32, 58-47, 74-66

Second Game

HAPEE 79—Juntilla 15, Rodriguez 12, Daa 11, Borboran 11, Norwood 7, Mercado 7, Viray 6, Espiritu 4, Grijaldo 4, Saguindel 4, Hugnatan 2, Quinday 0.

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 75—Sta. Maria 18, Aldave 13, Casio 9, Guerrero 9, Vilanueva 8, Jalme 6, Faundo 4, Sena 2, Alcaraz 2, Dedicatoria 2, Rodriguez 2, Cole 0, Hayes 0.

Quarters: 21-17, 40-33, 51-51, 79-75

Champs League semifinal race heats up

FOUR TEAMS SEEKING THE LAST TWO SEMIFINAL BERTHS expect a down-the-wire fight in the Fil-Oil/Flying V National Collegiate Champions League today at The Arena in San Juan.

The Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Jose Rizal Bombers battle at 4 p.m., right after the 2 p.m. quarterfinal bout between the Far Eastern Tamaraws and the STI Olympians.

The winner between the Ateneo-JRU tiff will advance to the Final Four versus the Santo Tomas Tigers, who ousted back-to-back NCAA champion San Beda, 88-84, last Monday.

FEU and STI are looking to advance to the Final Four versus the University of the Visayas Green Lancers, who secured the first semifinal slot by routing University of Mindanao, 78-58.

The Olympians earned an outright quarterfinal slot following the withdrawal of the University of the East. *Jasmine W. Payo*

No stopping the Thais in their gold harvest

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT'S WRONG, INCORRECT, CORRUPT, but all the Philippines could do is roll with the punches now that it has dropped the overall championship even before the 24th Southeast Asian Games could fire off in Thailand.

Not one punch thrown, not a single goal scored and there goes the regional supremacy established by the Philippines when it last hosted the Games in 2005.

The odd truth here is that the RP achievement was at best ephemeral, flitting, like the golden life of a firefly.

It sank and went pffft the moment the host of the succeeding edition of the SEA Games was picked.

* * *

So in which edition of the Games, regional version of the Olympics for eager competitors in Southeast Asia, did Thailand, as host, fail to dominate?

The overly patriotic Thais, who would close their eyes at the height of home-spun cheating, were always there to celebrate and bask in their perceived superiority each time their country hosted the SEA Games.

Of course, it's not exactly different in the case of the Philippines.

The country finished third in the overall race the first time it hosted the Games in 1981, then missed dethroning Indonesia by a single gold medal here in 1991.

And, to repeat, RP was the mightiest and strongest in the region in 2005.

* * *

That said, it cannot be denied that a host country's supremacy in the Southeast Asian Games hinges mainly on how it successfully manipulates the biennial calendar of events.

More often than not, the total gold medal harvest of a victorious host is the result of its ability to twist arms, insert or introduce endemic events which, needless to say, no other country could expect to win.

Not to say that the SEA Games could also qualify as the Arm-twisting Olympics.

But how could've Vietnam failed to emerge the overall champion in 2003, an incredible feat completed only after it managed to include such strange events as fin swimming, among a host of others, in the gold-medal race?

* * *

OK, there are the usual protests and refusal from rival countries whenever these strange disciplines are introduced but, in the end, the rotten practice prevails at the expense of the Olympic ideal.

The introduction of endemic events in the SEA Games to favor the host is an accepted corruption that must've been already there when the biennial meet first took off as the Southeast Asian Peninsular Games.

Winning the overall championship undoubtedly builds up pride, if not sincere respect, with the host regularly indulging in the gold-medal harvest.

Didn't the Philippines itself come a few points short of inserting such weird events as *tumbang preso* and *luksong tinik* when it last hosted the SEA Games?

* * *

There is, therefore, no reason to celebrate over the report that at least a dozen strange events had been scratched from the forthcoming Games in Thailand due to the lack of the required number of competitors.

This only confirmed how much the Thais have abused their manipulative powers in order to ensure success as the host country.

All told, the Philippines, as defending champion, will have to vie mainly for the crumbs in the SEA Games starting on Dec. 6 in two Thai provinces.

The call, as sounded by top RP delegation officials headed by Rep. Monico Puentevella, is for the country to fight and finish a strong second overall.

The Philippines had had its golden moments in the sun two years ago.

So leave it to the Thais to again bask and enjoy a form of national ego massage, thanks to the perennial corruption that has become endemic in the Southeast Asian Games.

Spread the warmth this holiday season with a
HOT
subscription offer!
FREE
USB-connectible mug warmer & stainless mug set
for every one year subscription!
Call 896-6000
INQUIRER
Give a gift that will last even after Christmas. Subscribe to the newspaper with the hottest news and views for yourself, a friend or a loved one.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Cash, Cheque, MasterCard or Visa payments accepted. Promo open to new subscribers and to those who will renew their Inquirer subscription. For Metro Manila residents only. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3658, Series of 2007. See flyers for details.

Magic, Jazz find rhythm

NEW YORK—THE ORLANDO MAGIC REGISTERED A 95-88 road win over the New Orleans Hornets on Monday, notching a fifth straight victory a day after handing the Boston Celtics their first loss of the season.

Dwight Howard had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Magic, Rashard Lewis added 19 and Jameer Nelson scored 16 as Orlando improved to 7-0 on the road in ending New Orleans' five-game winning streak.

Peja Stojakovic led the Hornets with 21 points.

The fast-starting Magic (10-2) bolted to a 33-17 first-quarter lead behind Howard's 10 points and increased the margin to 21 points in the second.

However, New Orleans (9-3) closed the gap to 53-43 at the half and took the lead at 57-56 on Stojakovic's jumper with 8:25 remaining in the third quarter and the game stayed relatively close until the final buzzer.

New Orleans moved 78-73 ahead on six straight points in the third period, only to see Orlando build a five-point advantage following a Lewis three-pointer with 1:25 remaining.

The Utah Jazz handed the New Jersey Nets their sixth straight loss, a 102-75 setback at Salt Lake City.

Deron Williams had 20 points and Carlos Boozer 17 for the Jazz. Richard Jefferson paced the Nets with 22.

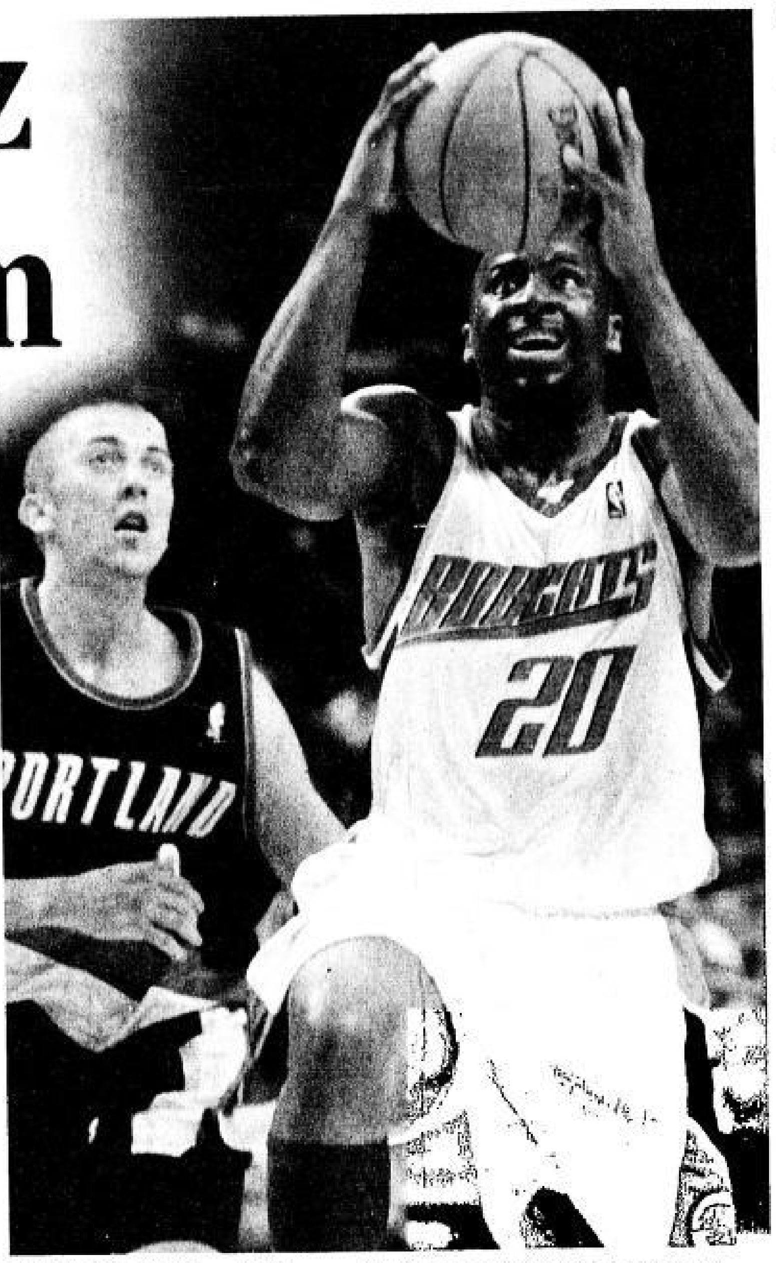
Gerald Wallace had 27 points and Raymond Felton and Jason Richardson each added 24 as the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Portland Trail Blazers 101-92.

Jarrett Jack scored 18 for Portland, which fell to 0-7 on the road.

The Memphis Grizzlies ended a three-game losing streak with a 125-108 home victory over the Seattle Supersonics.

Stromile Swift paced the Grizzlies with 24 points. Delonte West topped Seattle with 17. *Reuters*

GAME TODAY
8 a.m.–LA Lakers vs Indiana Pacers
(replay at 9 p.m.)



CHARLOTTE Bobcats' Raymond Felton drives to the basket past Steve Blake of Portland Trail Blazers in their NBA game Monday. AP

Baculi believes RP five good for gold

By Jasmine W. Payo

NATIONAL COACH JUNEL BAculi expects tougher regional rivals, but believes his reinforced squad has a strong shot at the basketball gold in the Southeast Asian Games.

"We've seen the opposition and it's not only Thailand that's strong, also Indonesia; the other teams are progressing, they're catching up on us," said Baculi, who presented at the PSA Forum yesterday the final 16-man lineup that will leave for the Thailand SEAG on Dec. 3.

"We had inadequate personnel in some positions, we filled it up and now that the gap is closed, I think we have a strong team."

The Harbour-Philippine Team, co-captained by ex-pros Alex Crisano and Allan Salangsang, took in four additional players led by celebrated Fil-Am Gabe Norwood.

"They say that this is the gold that matters most and we will assure you, we will bring home the gold," said Harbour Centre owner and team delegation head Mikee Romero.

Amateur star Jason Castro also banners the national crew composed of point guards Al Vergara, Boyet Bautista and Eugene Tan, shooters Chris Tiu, Jonathan Fernandez and Patrick Cabahug, forwards Erick dela Cuesta and Jeff Chan, and big men Jervy Cruz, Beau Belga, Eric Rodriguez and Chad Alonzo.

"The team is coming together slowly, I'm one of the new additions and it kind of made it tough," said Norwood, the 6-foot-5 guard who suited up for the all-pro RP Team in the Tokushima Fiba Asia Championship last July.

"I'm willing to learn, willing to adjust and hopefully I can do that quickly enough to help the team win."

Baculi said team officials will trim the roster to 12 players during the SEAG managers' meeting on Dec. 4, before the Philippines kicks off its bid versus Cambodia (Dec. 7), Indonesia (Dec. 9), Malaysia (Dec. 11) and Thailand (Dec. 13).

"By winning the gold medal, we're hoping to bring the respect back to Philippine basketball," said PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad.

Team officials, meanwhile, said Sporting Al Riyadi Beirut begged off from its tune-up series against the Nationals due to the recent Metro Manila bombings.

NBC-Spring clinches 2nd

JOHOR, MALAYSIA—THE NBC-SPRING Cooking Oil Selection sizzled in the second half to thwart China-Parklane, 93-75, and bag the silver medal in the 2007 Johor Invitational basketball tournament Sunday at the Larkin Stadium here.

Trailing, 41-45, in the first half, the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and league EVP Mayor Bambol Tolentino hit their strides in the third canto.

Ronald Lamocha, Henry Fernandez and Nino Marquez went on a scoring rampage to give the Filipinos, mentored by Boyzie Zamar, a 68-61 advantage going into the payoff period.

The Filipinos, whose campaign here was bankrolled by Spring Cooking Oil and supported by Armando Quibod's Montana Pawnshop, Malabon City Mayor Tito Oreta, Sulpicio Lines and official outfitter Champion Sportswear, finished with four wins against one loss, behind Malaysia which swept its five assignments. The Filipinos lost to Malaysia, 75-87.

The scores:

NBC-SPRING 93—Lamocha 18, Fernandez 17, Marquez 15, Epondulan 13, Villamin 10, Capobres 4, Reyes 2, Napo 2, Quibod 0.

CHINA-PARKLANE 75—Jing 19, Wang 16, Zou 16, Sun 16, Mo 8, Zan 0, Xi 0, Li 0, Jiang 0.

Quarters: 14-20, 41-45, 68-61, 93-75

Sumcad ahead

ORLAN SUMCAD, THE LONG-HITTER from Bacolod still in search of a first pro win, assembled a five-under 63 built around eight birdies yesterday to take a two-stroke lead after the first round of the PGAP Challenge presented by Jun Bustamante at Camp Aguinaldo.

Sumcad, who finished second to Mars Pucay in the RP leg of the Asean Tour at the Malarayat last month, opened up with a birdie and never looked back to leave Cassius Casas and Randy Garalde behind. Casas fired a 65 (32-33) and so did Garalde, who went bogeyless (33-32). *Musong R. Castillo*

SPORTSWATCH

Castillo scores golden double

GELITA CASTILLO OF CAMP CRAME HIGH School completed a golden double while Wilfredo Amoroso of University of Santo Tomas annexed the boys' 18-under singles crown recently in the fifth Toby's Youth Badminton Championships at SM Megamall.

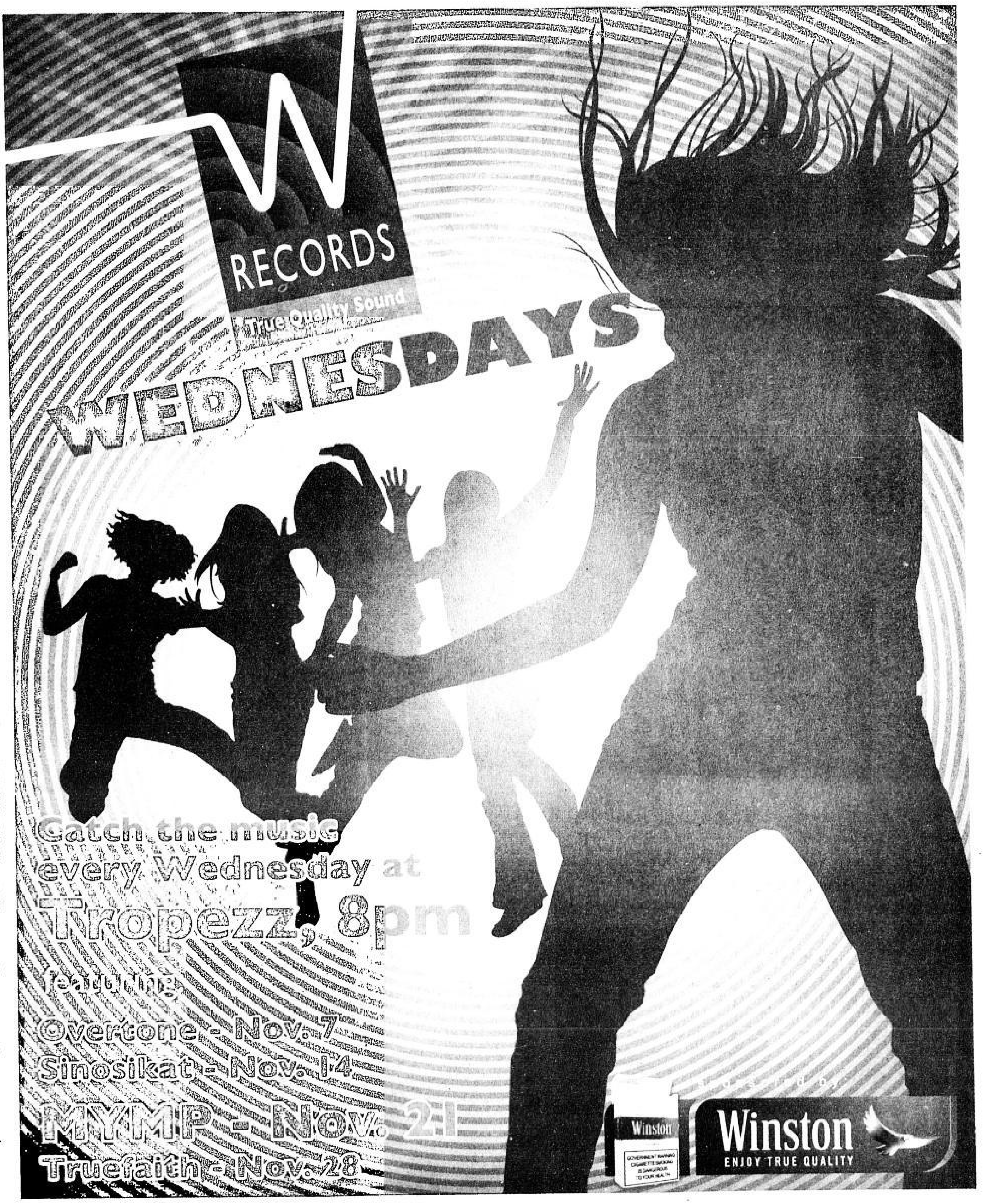
Castillo first annexed the girls' 16-under crown at the expense of Malvinne Anne Alcala of the Marikina Sports Hub, 21-13, 21-14, and returned a day later to frustrate Alcala anew, 21-13, 21-8, for the 18-under title.

Amoroso outlasted Ronel Estanislao of La Salle-Antipolo, 21-19, 22-20, for the boys' 18-under crown while Peter Gabriel Magnaye of Victor P-Come ruled the boys' 16-under with a 21-18, 21-15 win over Jornelious Castro of Iloilo.

LCC 5-stag at SJC

A SELECT FIELD OF BIGTIME COCKERS PLUNGE into action today as the LCC 5-stag derby gets going at San Juan Coliseum with more than 100 fights scheduled.

The winners will get a guaranteed prize of at least P1 million, said host Louie Cua. Participants include *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Pol Estrellado, Max Roxas, Raymund King, Gov. Ito Ynares, Richard Bates, Lito Orillaza, William Co, Eric dela Rosa, Super Pacman group, Gerry Ramos, Firefly group, Benjie Lim and Pepito Ngo



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

International Voicetext—P10* lang, only from SMART!

PHILIPPINE NURSING BOARD EXAM RESULTS
Ate! Nagkatotoo na pangarap natin. Pumasa 'ko sa board exams. Ang saya-saya! Ate! 'Di sayang ang pagod mo.
You have received an Int'l voice text

COMMUNICATIONS

INFORMATION

ENTERTAINMENT

TRANSACTIONS

Sa Int'l Voicetext, ipadinig mo sa kanya ang emosyon ng mga sandaling 'di niya dapat ma-miss.

For only P10* per Voicetext sent, pwede ka nang mag-record ng voice message at i-send sa'yong loved one abroad para boses mo mismo ang mapakinggan niya anytime, many times! Nasa ibang time zone man, matatanggap niya ang Voicetext mo at mapakikinggan sa oras na convenient para sa kanya. Ngayon, mas may kahulugan na ang message mo dahil dinig niya ang boses mo.

Mag-Int'l Voicetext na to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Hong Kong, India, Bahrain, UAE, at South Korea!

NAPAKADALI AT NAPAKA-AFFORDABLE MAG-INTERNATIONAL VOICE TEXT

1. Para mag-send ng Voicetext (P10)
   ∗8900 country code area code phone number
   Example: Dial ∗8900966509244444
2. Para pakinggan ang Voicetext (P2.50 sa unang beses, P1 sa mga susunod):
   Tumawag sa retrieval code na lumalabas sa SMS alert o tumawag sa:
   ∗9900 country code area code phone number
   Example: Dial ∗9900966509244444
3. Para mag-reply (P10): Press '1' pagka-receive ng Voicetext at sundan ang voice prompt.

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

*P10 rate is effective from Nov. 20, 2007 to Jan 19, 2008. Open to Postpaid and Prepaid subscribers. Only for sending to International numbers abroad. Not valid for SMART Roaming SIMs.

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

IN THIS ISSUE

- **US medical** outsourcing firm to tap RP market /B3
- **BSP posts 9-month** net loss of P29B /B8

www.koreanair.com

Excellence in Connection

Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World

Excellence in Flight
KOREAN AIR
Reservation Center, Manila: 893-4909

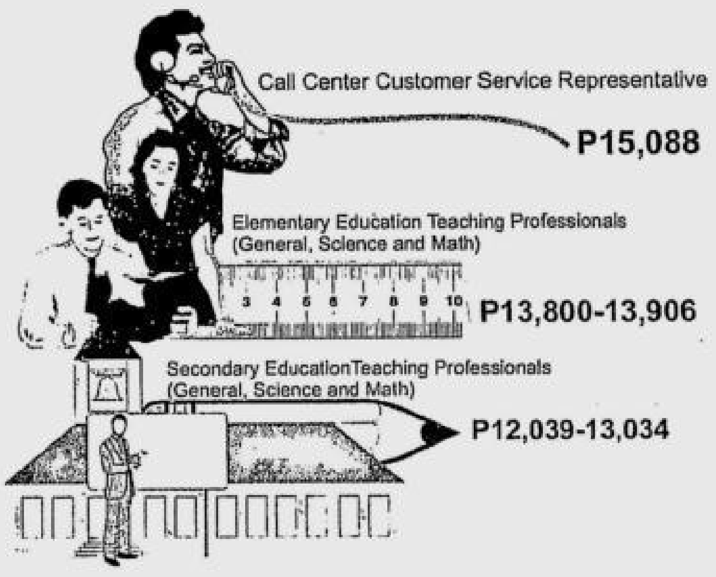
Deficit in first 10 months drops

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Comparartive wage rates between teachers and call agents (August 2006)

Call center customer service representatives and associates have higher average monthly wage rates than elementary and secondary teachers.


Call Center Customer Service Representative
P15,088
Elementary Education Teaching Professionals (General, Science and Math)
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
P13,800-13,906
Secondary EducationTeaching Professionals (General, Science and Math)
P12,039-13,034

Wage rates include basic pay and guaranteed cash allowances.
Basic pay refers to pay for regular working time; excludes overtime pay, commissions, tips, payment in kind, etc.
Allowances refer to living allowances; excludes reimbursement for travel, bonuses, etc.

Source: Occupational Wages Survey 2006
Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

Gov't seen on track of full-year target as Jan-Oct budget gap hits P41.5B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT incurred a lower budget deficit of P41.5 billion in the first 10 months compared to the P56.3 billion registered during the same period last year on the back of large privatization proceeds and interest payment savings.

For the month of October alone, the government trimmed the deficit to P1.5 billion from last year's P5.8 billion, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday said in a briefing.

"It shows that we are well on track to meeting the programmed deficit ceiling of P63 billion this year," Teves said.

Privatization receipts, which reached P43.6 billion, as well as interest savings amounting to some P31.6 billion during the period compensated for the shortfalls in tax collections.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, for instance, fell short of its 10-month collection goal of P618.10 billion by P42.67 billion, even though its actual collection grew by 8 percent year-on-year to P575.4 billion.

On the other hand, the Bureau of Customs registered a 4.3-percent increase in revenue collection to P171.7 billion from P164.7 billion last year.

Total income generated by the Bureau of Treasury amounted to P61.3 billion, up by 12 percent from last year, while revenues from other offices, including privatization proceeds, more than doubled to P87.5 billion.

Among the big-ticket items privatized by the government this year were the former Iloilo airport property, its indirect shares in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., stocks in PNOC- Energy Development Co., and its remaining stake in Philippine National Bank.

"We are greatly helped by revenues from privatization and (dividend) contributions from state-owned companies," Teves said.

"We believe that these additional revenues from non-tax sources are necessary to enable us to fund vital infrastructure and social services, which are needed to sustain economic growth and help improve the quality of life of our people," he added.

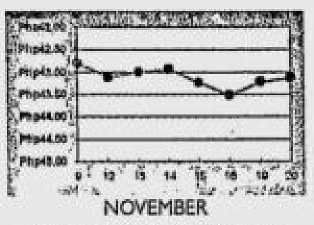
For the 10-month period, total government revenues grew by 13 percent to P896 billion compared to that of last year. Revenue collections for October alone reached P83.7 billion, up by 5 percent from the same month last year.

On the other hand, total expenditures amounted to P85.2 billion in October, and

DEFICIT/B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



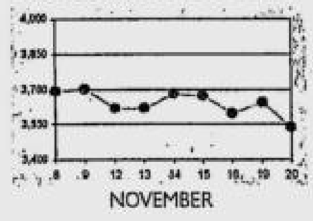
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P43.11 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 20, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Shares close 2.9% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 2.9 percent lower as investors unloaded risky assets following overnight losses on Wall Street, dealers said.

They said Asian markets tracked losses on Wall Street following more bad news about the US banking and housing sectors.

The composite index closed down 104.61 points at 3,540.61 off a low of 3,506.67. This is its worst finish in nearly two months.

The broader all-share index fell 59.26 points or 2.7 percent to 2,163.73.

SHARES/B6

Meralco says it has no plan to hike power rates by ₱9.20

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC CO. has belied claims that electricity rates in its franchise area will increase by as much as P9.20 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) as soon as the Energy Regulatory Commission approves several pending rate adjustment petitions.

Responding to the full-page ads the Consumer and Oil Price Watch had put out, Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna said the distribution utility would not be increasing rates and, instead, announced cumulative rate reductions of P1.32 per kWh since July.

The National Power Corp., from which Meralco sourced some of its supply requirements, had also announced cumulative reductions of almost P1.59 per kWh since March.

"Given all these reductions, how can (COPW chair Raul Concepcion) conclude that power rates will continue to rise?" Cuna said in a statement yesterday. "In the recent past, there were both upward and downward factors on power rates, but the net effect has been a reduction."

What Concepcion could be referring to, he said, were Meralco's 10 pending petitions for generation cost recovery, which, combined, would still not amount to a total of P9.20 per kWh.

The 10 pending petitions covered generation cost recovery from September 2006 to June 2007, the period when the ERC suspended the automatic generation rate adjustment (Agra) scheme that allowed distribution utilities to adjust generation and system loss charges, Cuna said.

"We would also like to clarify that, although we have already advanced the payments to the generating companies, we do not expect a one-time collection of these under-recoveries," he added.

"Definitely, the ERC will be cognizant of its impact on the bills of our customers."

Also, Meralco's applications for generation charge recovery for October and November 2006 (or the September and October 2006 supply months) were amended, following ERC's ruling that the pricing in the wholesale electricity spot market for those two months would be pegged at Napocor's time-of-use rates.

"That significantly brought down the under-recoveries, a matter which Mr. Concepcion has not considered," Cuna said.

"It is unfortunate that, in trying to forecast power rates, Mr. Concepcion merely summed all the numbers of these petitions, which is not only misleading but also alarmist, because it gave the impression that generation cost recovery is the only variable in the future movement of power rates," he added.

Gov't fails to auction off stake in Eastern Telecommunications

A PUBLIC BIDDING YESTERDAY HELD by the government to privatize its 10.2-percent stake in the country's oldest telecommunication company, Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc., failed to attract investors.

In a press briefing, Finance Undersecretary for privatization Crisanta Legaspi yesterday said nobody showed up during the bidding conducted at 10 a.m. by the government's Privatization Management Office.

"We bid it out, but it was a failed bid," Legaspi said.

She said the government would thus have to reassess its options on the ETPI stake, including the possibility of entering into a negotiated sale, or offering the minority stake to other existing ETPI shareholders.

Legaspi declined to say how much the government was expecting from the sale of these shares.

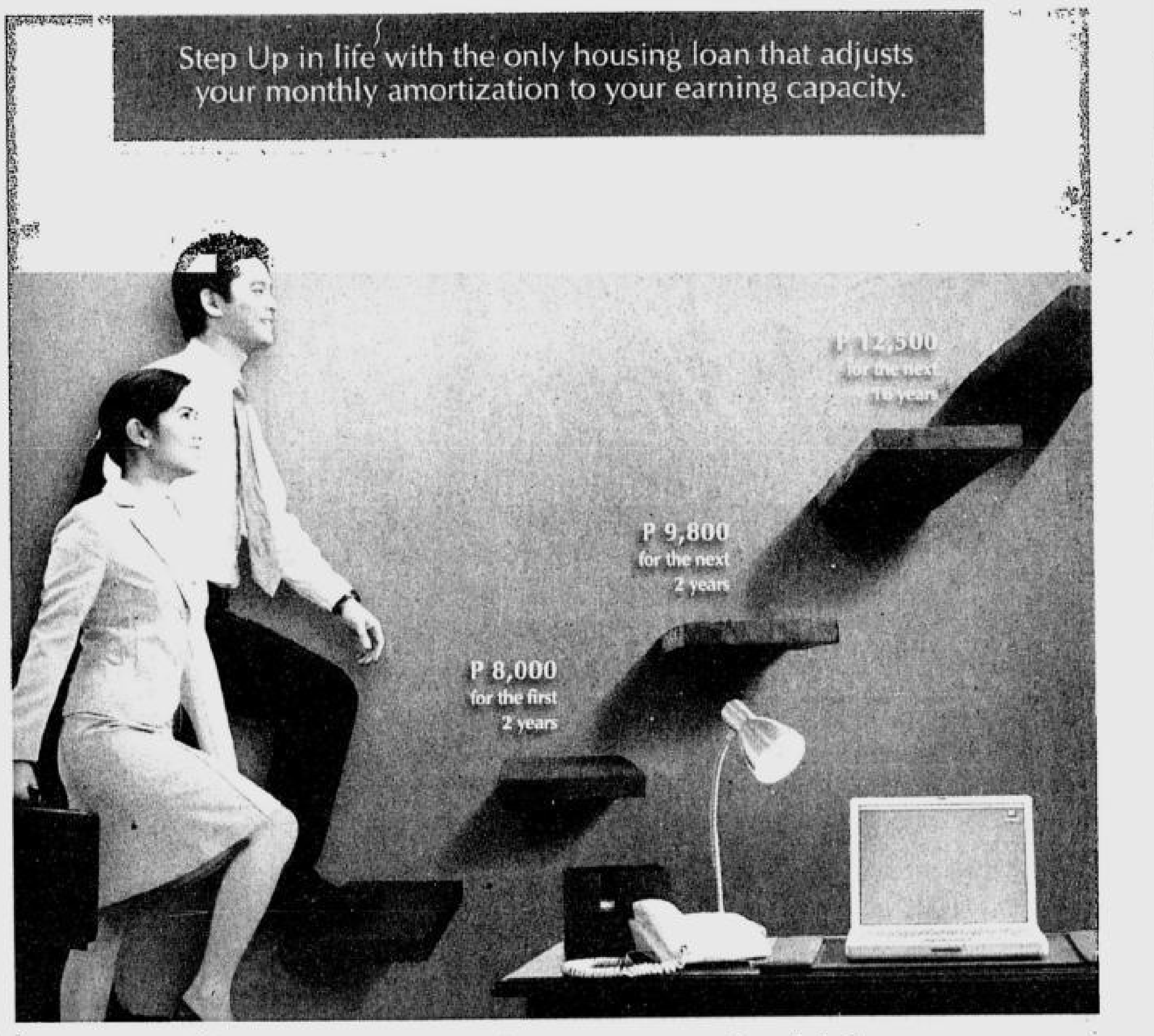
The PMO bid out as one whole lot 2.652 million class A shares in ETPI, representing the stake former Ambassador Roberto Benedicto turned over to the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

As part of a compromise agreement with the PCGG, Benedicto gave up 51 percent of his interest in Eastern Telecom, consisting of 2.652 million shares.

In July last year, the Supreme Court denied the petition of the heirs of the late President Ferdinand Marcos to nullify a Sandiganbayan resolution dismissing the recovery case they had filed against Benedicto due to their alleged failure and refusal to pay the correct amount of docket fees.

ETPI is controlled by former ISM Communications Corp. of former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin, which earlier spent P100 million to hike its stake in the company to 67.5 percent from 57.5 percent.

The telecom company has been in the red for six straight years until last year, when it yielded a net profit of P31 million and reversed the P540 million in net loss registered a year ago. *Doris C. Dumlao*


Step Up in life with the only housing loan that adjusts your monthly amortization to your earning capacity.
P 12,500 for the next 16 years
P 9,800 for the next 2 years
P 8,000 for the first 2 years

With fixed payments that you can afford right now, there's no reason to wait for your dream home.
Introducing
BPI Family Savings Bank's Step UP Housing Loan

We offer you affordable amortization plans with fixed loan payments for 15 and 20-year terms.

Loan Term : 15 Years		Loan Term : 20 Years	
Amount	**Payment Schedule**	**Amount**	**Payment Schedule**
P 8,000	first 2 years	P 8,000	first 2 years
P 11,800	next 2 years	P 9,800	next 2 years
P 13,600	Remaining 11 years	P 12,500	Remaining 16 years

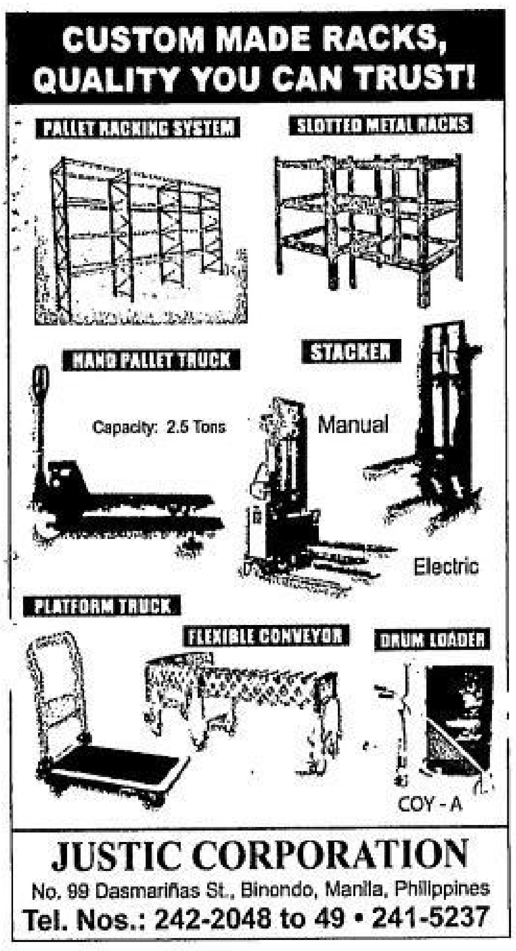
* Computation based on a P1,000,000 loan amount on a fixed 20-year term

For more information, call 845-6888, 754-6747, 754-6582, 754-6557 or 89-100.
Text HOUSING<space>name<space>message and send to 0917-8910000 or 0918-8910000.
Log on to bpiexpressonline.com or visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank or Express Banking Center near you.

Initially available in Metro Manila and soon in the provinces.

Build your Dream HOUSING LOAN

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow.


CUSTOM MADE RACKS, QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST!
PALLET RACKING SYSTEM
SLOTTED METAL RACKS
HAND PALLET TRUCK
Capacity: 2.5 Tons
STACKER
Manual
Electric
PLATFORM TRUCK
FLEXIBLE CONVEYOR
DRUM LOADER
COY - A
JUSTIC CORPORATION
No. 99 Dasmariñas St., Binondo, Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 242-2048 to 49 • 241-5237

IMF execs coming to RP

By Michelle V. Remo

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund officials will arrive in Manila next week for a 12-day visit to assess the government's progress in improving the country's fiscal climate and the economy.

During the visit, scheduled on Nov. 29 to Dec. 11, IMF representatives will hold meetings with government economic managers.

Finance officials said the IMF representatives were expected to focus on the sustainability of the government's budget deficit reduction and the robust economic growth in the first half.

The economy, as measured by its gross domestic product, registered a 7.3-percent growth in the first semester, the highest in almost two decades. This was better than the IMF's original projection of a 5.8-percent GDP growth for the Philippines for the year.

Critics, however, have questioned the sustainability of this growth, especially since tax collections continued to fall short of targets. Doubts have been raised on the ability of the government to continue pump-priming the economy because of perceived weakness on the revenue side.

The Department of Finance had said the government was still on track to meeting its goal of limiting the budget deficit this year to P63 billion despite the failure of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to meet its monthly collection targets.

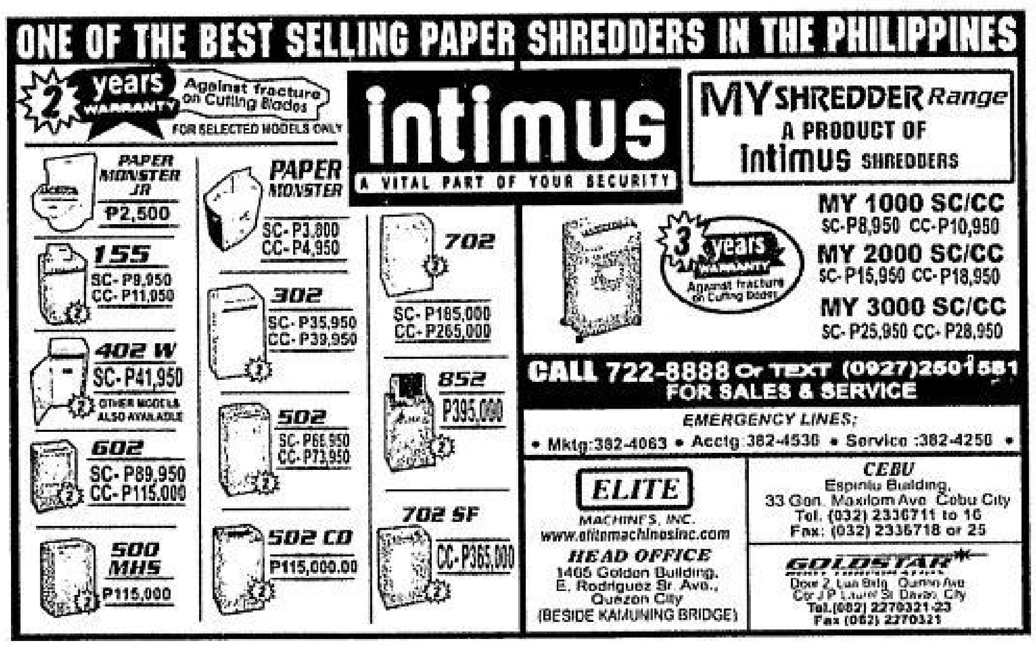
Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said proceeds from the sale of state-owned assets would offset shortfalls in tax collection.

The government's ability to meet its fiscal targets is closely watched by the international capital market, including credit ratings agencies and foreign investors.

In the first nine months of the year, BIR collections reached P521.6 billion, or P45 billion lower than the P566.9-billion goal for the period. But the government expects to generate P55.2 billion this year from the sale of state-owned assets.

The IMF visit will no longer be part of the Post-Program Monitoring (PPM), which covered the Philippines until it exited from the program in April.

Under the PPM, the IMF conducts periodic review of a country's macroeconomic and fiscal environments, and then gives recommended policy reforms.


ONE OF THE BEST SELLING PAPER SHREDDERS IN THE PHILIPPINES
2 years WARRANTY Against fracture on Cutting Blades
FOR SELECTED MODELS ONLY
intimus
A VITAL PART OF YOUR SECURITY
MY SHREDDER Range
A PRODUCT OF
Intimus SHREDDERS
PAPER MONSTER JR P2,500
155 SC-P8,950 CC-P11,950
402 W SC-P41,950
OTHER MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE
602 SC-P89,950 CC-P115,000
500 MHS P115,000
PAPER MONSTER SC-P3,800 CC-P4,950
302 SC-P35,950 CC-P39,950
502 SC-P66,950 CC-P73,950
502 CD P115,000.00
702 SC-P185,000 CC-P265,000
852 P395,000
702 SF CC-P365,000
3 years WARRANTY Against fracture on Cutting Blades
MY 1000 SC/CC SC-P8,950 CC-P10,950
MY 2000 SC/CC SC-P15,950 CC-P18,950
MY 3000 SC/CC SC-P25,950 CC-P28,950
CALL 722-8888 Or TEXT (0927)2501581
FOR SALES & SERVICE
EMERGENCY LINES:
• Mktg:382-4063 • Acctg:382-4530 • Service :382-4250 •
ELITE
MACHINES, INC.
www.elitemachinesinc.com
HEAD OFFICE
1405 Golden Building,
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.,
Quezon City
(BESIDE KAMUNING BRIDGE)
CEBU
Espinilu Building,
33 Gen. Maxilom Ave. Cebu City
Tel. (032) 2336711 to 16
Fax: (032) 2336718 or 25
GOLDSTAR
Door 2 Lua Bldg. Quirino Ave
Cor J P Laurel St Davao City
Tel.(082) 2270321-23
Fax (082) 2270321

After the much acclaimed Adeste Fideles 2006, now...
Adeste Fideles 2007
A GALA CHRISTMAS CONCERT
7:30 PM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007
PLENARY HALL, PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER (PICC)
FEATURING
RACHELLE GERODIAS KARLA GUTIERREZ ELAINE LEE
NOLYN CABAHUG ABDUL CANDAO RANDY GILONGO
WITH THE SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF
GEORGE YANG
JENNIFER UY AND SHERWIN SOZON
VINA MORALES
PHILIPPINE MADRIGAL SINGERS
CHIANG KAI SHEK COLLEGE YOUTH CHOIR
METRO MANILA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR
JOSEFINO CHINO TOLEDO
PRESENTED BY
Management Association of the Philippines
The Philippines' Leading Management Organization
CO-PRESENTED BY
CREDIT SUISSE
PLATINUM SPONSORS
ANC
BusinessWorld www.bworldonline.com
PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
DIAMOND SPONSORS
REGNUM CHRISTI
MEGAWORLD
GOLD SPONSOR
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SILVER SPONSORS
Ayala
Metrobank You're in good hands
THE PHILIPPINE STAR
LANDCO PACIFIC
BRONZE SPONSORS
CGKformaprint, Inc.
Chinatrust
FEDERAL PHOENIX
Goldilocks
IREMIT
Mercedes-Benz
Philippine Airlines It's about experience
STRADCOM
Beneficiaries: PinoyME (Filipino MicroEnterprise) and MAP-AIM Teacher Training Program
For tickets, please contact MAP Secretariat (tel. 751-1149 or email mapsec@globenet.com.ph)
Ticketworld (tel.891-9999 or visit www.ticketworld.com.ph) • Ticket outlets: Italianni's, Chelsea (Serendra), M Cafe, Goldilocks (Shaw)
TICKETS: P3,000 (sold out) / P2,000 / P1,500 / P1,000 / P500

House bill seeks to strengthen BIR antitax evasion drive

Agency seen getting power to prosecute tax cheats on its own

By Michelle V. Remo

A BILL SEEKING TO GIVE THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue the power to prosecute tax cheats on its own and put more teeth to its antitax evasion campaign is being prepared at the Lower House.

Representative Danilo Suarez, chair of the House oversight committee, said authorizing the BIR to pursue cases on its own, without assistance from the Department of Justice, was necessary to speed up the resolution of tax-evasion cases.

The BIR has been implementing since 2005 the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program. Under the program, the agency is supposed to regularly file high-profile tax evasion cases to discourage the public from avoiding their tax obligations.

Many of these cases, however, have yet to reach the proper courts and are still pending with the DOJ. Under the system, the BIR must first gather enough evidence before submitting these cases to the DOJ. The justice department, for its part, will review these cases and decide which ones have merits and had to be brought to courts.

The delays in the prosecution of alleged tax evaders have been a cause of conflict between the BIR and the DOJ.

To resolve the issue, the BIR has been deputized by the Palace to prosecute suspected tax evaders on its own and do so without the need to go to the DOJ.

But Suarez said the move to deputize the BIR should be legislated to avoid legal questions in the future. He said the bill was already being prepared and would be filed in the ongoing 14th Congress.

"The objective is to strengthen the legal department of the bureau so they can prosecute cases better," Suarez told reporters.

The legislator said the bill also intended to allow the BIR to hire more lawyers and allot more resources for pursuing tax evasion cases.

Suarez said that with the implementation of the Tax Amnesty program, the government should now be very strict in enforcing tax laws.

The Tax Amnesty program, which started last Sept. 6 and end on March 5 next year, may cover tax liabilities for 2005 and prior years upon payment of a tax amnesty fee and submission of documentary requirements, including statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Tax delinquents availing themselves of the amnesty will be allowed to start with a clean slate and be immune from prosecution. The government will be able to update its taxpayers' database with the information to be gathered from the SALNs.

The Tax Amnesty Law contains a provision prohibiting the government from implementing any more tax amnesties in the future. This is to discourage the public from delaying plans to come out in the open and to encourage them to be honest taxpayers.

Suarez said intensifying the RATE program was a complementary measure of the Tax Amnesty Law.

CANCER PATIENTS
Check your Haemoglobin anytime!
PORTABLE FINGER PULSE OXIMETER
• Non invasive
• Fast, versatile, accurate
• Extended use (AAA batteries)
• Affordable
• Also measures PULSE RATE
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A, 635-0436
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-7540
FOR INQUIRIES CALL or TEXT: 09228910322
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
SM MALL of ASIA 2nd Flr. South Parking 556-0207

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Lot-1 Replacement of three (3) units Condenser of ACU bank #2 AT-25	Php 894,926.25	November 22, 2007 9:00 AM	December 4, 2007 9:00 AM	Php 3,000.00
Lot 2 Electrical and other related repairs AT-25	Php 2,525,396.91			
Lot-4 Re-insulation of chilled water piping system AT-25	Php 2,580,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot 5 Repair of Turbocharger of Port Main Engine of PS-35	Php 2,062,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot 6 Structural Repair of AF-72	Php 2,411,436.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot 7 Machinery Repair of AF-72	Php 959,564.40			
Lot 9 Structural and other related repair of PG140	Php 3,459,421.00			Php 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **Repair of Various Philippine Navy Vessels.** Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*, Monday** to **Friday**.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Mentioned in Para 1*. The method of payment will be *in the form of cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***November 22, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City**.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***December 4, 2007, 9:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. **Bid opening** shall be on ***December 4, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Contact Person: ***CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PN BAC

(PDI--November 21, 2007)

US medical outsourcing firm to tap RP market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PLANETHOSPITAL, A CALIFORNIA-based medical outsourcing firm, plans to launch in mid-2008 a health program tailored for overseas Filipino workers as it adds the country to its growing list of markets.

Rudy Rupak, founder and president of the pioneering company, said in an interview yesterday the program dubbed "Diaspora" would allow Filipinos abroad to avail themselves of health plans here at local prices.

"We are in talks with potential partner HMOs and we are definitely launching in the second or third quarter of next year," Rupak said.

The executive is on a week-long visit to check out hospitals, spas and related facilities and meet with possible partners for medical tourism.

"There are tremendous opportunities in the Philippines for medical outsourcing," Rupak said. "I dare say that this industry could be your country's petroleum."

He said the Diaspora, which would be rolled out first in El Salvador in January, would target in its first year some 60,000 Filipinos based in the United States.

"Someone working in LA, for example, could pay the HMO here by credit card and he can avail himself of basic medical services in the US, but the coverage would be in Philippine cost (the member would pay the difference)," he explained.

The same member would have full health plan coverage in the Philippines, where he would go to avail himself of services like medical procedures.

Established in 2002 and incorporated in 2005, PlanetHospital currently offers 13 destinations to clients, including India, Thailand, Singapore, Israel, Cyprus, Malta, Belgium, Argentina, Brazil, Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico and the United States.

PHILIPPINE LOTTO

PACIFIC ONLINE INSTALLS 500TH INTRALOT CORONIS LOTTO TERMINAL IN LIMKETKAI MALL, CAGAYAN DE ORO. *(From L to R)* Louie Nacorda, Bert David, Romy Roque,Bobby Kintanar, Limketkai Agent Mr. Danny Tan,, PCSO Vismin Head Mr. William Medici, Intralot programmers Harris Koutsioubas, Leffy Gardias and Angelos Kvriakopoulos

Cosmos posts loss

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SOFTDRINKS FIRM Cosmos Bottling Corp. has posted a loss in the first nine months of P786.3 million, a reversal from the same period last year when it yielded a profit of P165.35 million.

Cosmos said in its financial report that the cost of sales rose to P6.15 billion during the nine-month period from P5.42 billion in the same period in 2006, due to higher costs of packaging materials, tolling fees as well as higher concentrate costs.

In addition, Cosmos' provision for income tax rose to P174 million during the nine-month period from P76 million in the same period last year after the company stopped recognizing deferred income tax benefits.

The higher costs eroded gains from the 13 percent increase in net sales to P7.79 billion as of September, from P6.87 billion in the same period last year.

The higher sales led to a 12-percent growth in gross profit to P1.635 billion in the nine-month period from P1.455 billion last year.

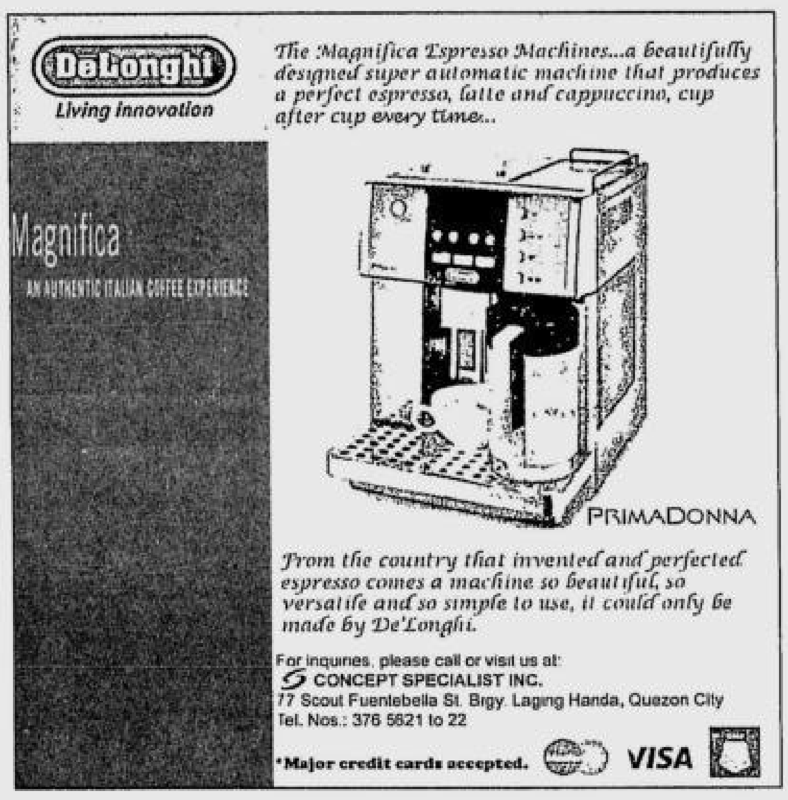
Cosmos is 98.2-percent owned by Philippine Bottlers Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

Last September, Cosmos terminated production in its five manufacturing plants and transferred production to specific plants of CCBPI under a toll manufacturing agreement.

LOAN PROBLEMS?
- Do you need loans for working capital and business expansion ?
- Do you have past due loans that need to be restructured ?
- Is your bank foreclosing or has the bank foreclosed your collateral?
- Do you need to file a petition for corporate rehabilitation in court?

We can help you!!!
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING CORPORATION
9/F LEGASPI SUITES, 178 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8182414 - 8184480 Fax No. 8193294 dioconsulting@yahoo.com
DIOMAMPO CONSULTING

SEE THAT YOUR ASSETS & LOVED ONES ARE SAFE & SECURE... ANYTIME, ANYWHERE YOU ARE... at an affordable price with...
MYSOLUTIONS CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
for as low as P1,500 / month
up to 24 MONTHS
to pay at 0% interest
NETWORK AND REMOTE VIEWING CAPABLE
distributed by MYSOLUTIONS
367-8188, 365-8488, 365-7313
364-9355, 367-2844, 364-6571
www.mysolutions.com.ph


DeLonghi
Living innovation
Magnifica
AN AUTHENTIC ITALIAN COFFEE EXPERIENCE
The Magnifica Espresso Machines...a beautifully designed super automatic machine that produces a perfect espresso, latte and cappuccino, cup after cup every time...
PRIMADONNA
From the country that invented and perfected espresso comes a machine so beautiful, so versatile and so simple to use, it could only be made by De'Longhi.
For inquiries, please call or visit us at:
CONCEPT SPECIALIST INC.
77 Scout Fuentebella St. Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 376 5621 to 22
*Major credit cards accepted. VISA

SECURE your office from FRAUD & THEFT!
Timekeeping & Access Control Devices
U.are.U with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
- With DTR Software
- Unlimited Fingerprints
P 7,900
OA-101 with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
- With DTR Software
- 512 Fingerprints Capacity
P 9,900
OA-180 with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
- With 4 AA Back-up Battery
- 512 Fingerprint Capacity
- TCP/IP or USB Connection for Downloading
P 16,500
AV-100 with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
- With Built-in Back-Up Battery
- Built-in USB or TCP/IP slot
- Access Control Ready
- 1,760 Fingerprints Capacity
P 19,000
OA-200 with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
- RS 485 & TCP/IP Connection
- Access Control Ready
- 2K Fingerprints, 50K transactions
- Fingerprint & Proximity Card Verification
P 24,000
FE900 with Payroll Software for 50 employees.
Fingerprint T&A Access Control
SPECIAL OFFER!
Buy 3 EVOLVE All-in-One PC, and get a FREE OA101 Fingerprint T&A Reader.
LCD Monitor
DVD ROM/ 4-in-1 card reader
Speakers
CPU
evolve ALL-IN-ONE LCD PC
*max of 1 unit per company
MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION
www.mseedsystems.com
FOR SALES INQUIRIES CONTACT:
533-1562 | 533-3612 | 533-2989 | 533-6040
534-1529 | 533-4095 | 535-0787
sales@mseedsystems.com

PSBank
Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Deposit Amount	Interest Rates	
In Pesos	Less than 1 Year	1 Year
100,000 - 499,999	3.50	3.50
500,000 - 999,999	3.75	3.75
1.0MM - 4.99MM	4.50	4.50
5.0MM - 9.99MM	4.75	4.75
10.0MM and up	5.00	5.00

Rates are subject to change without prior notice, on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes

Manage your account online via PSBank Remote Banking.
Open a time deposit now in any of 163 branches nationwide.

For more information text PSBANK PTD <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks, or visit our website at www.psbank.com.ph

Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor is P250,000.

ROVER SYSTEMS
Keeping safe everything that matters.
RV-7716N / RV-7708N
16CH / 8CH
Network DVR
Seagate
VIBRANT, BRILLIANT AND CLEAR VIDEO...
FOR AS LOW AS P28,000 UNIT PRICE
THE RV-7708N AND RV-7716N IS PACKED WITH 4, 8 AND16 CAMERAS, 160 GB UP TO 750 GB. HARD DISK DRIVE, AVR, POWER SUPPLY, CONNECTORS AND PATCH CABLE.
ROVER DVR-VS SERIES
DVR-VALUE SOLUTION
AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF SETTING UP A COMPLETE CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
FOR AS LOW AS P49,690 PACKAGE PRICE
P4,140.83/mo.
Rover Systems Showrooms:
- Gilmore IT Center (New Manila, Quezon City) 723-9418
- MC Home Depot (Ortigas Ave., Pasig City) 638-3859
- MC Home Depot (The Fort, Taguig) 815-4929
- Alabang Home Depot (Filinvest Ave., Westgate)
Protect your home and business. Call us: 723-7959
0% INTEREST FOR 12 MOS.

Aspire. Aim. Achieve I www.audi.ph
Beijing 2008
AUDI
Beijing 2008 Official Premium Automobile
PGA CARS
The Audi A6 Germany's No.1 Executive Car. Test drive one, you deserve it.
Own your dream Audi A6 with our special ownership packages:
- Net monthly amortization for as low as P45,000.00; OR
- Down payment schemes for as low as P649,000.00.

Every Audi purchase comes with a luggage set from the Exclusive Audi Lifestyle Selection.
Audi Financial Services in partnership with BDO
All applications are subject to bank approval.
quattro
Audi Center Philippines, PGA Cars Audi Building, 201 EDSA Mandaluyong City. Call 7270145
CAMPI MEMBER
Per DTI NCR permit #A3-0861 series of 2007. Promo valid from October 18 to November 30, 2007,

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bataan Economic Zone

Tel. Nos. (047) 935-4004; (047) 935-5002
Fax No. (047) 935-6046; E-mail: bez@unet.net.ph; website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY-BATAAN ECONOMIC ZONE (PEZA-BEZ)** invites interested parties who are registered with PEZA as ecozone locator enterprises or qualified to be registered as ecozone locator enterprises to bid for the sale, on an **"AS IS, WHERE IS"** basis, of the following described property located at the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ), Mariveles, Bataan.

"Interasia Container Industries, Inc. Building with a total floor area of 5,430 Sq.Ms. The building is primarily a single storey with steel trusses & purlins, asbestos roofing, steel flange column, CHB walls with asbestos wall on steel and with a two-storey reinforced concrete office frontage."

The minimum bid price is Php 2,750,295.00.

Interested parties may inspect the subject property during regular office hours (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) from November 20-23, 2007. For this purpose, they may contact Engr. Sixto Inales, Chief, BEZ Engineering and Maintenance Division at Tel. No. 047-9354008.

Requirements:

1. For BEZ locator enterprises, certification from the BEZ Finance Division stating that they are up to date in the payment of their accounts with PEZA;
2. For non-BEZ locator enterprises, certification of good standing from the Zone Administrator/Manager of the ecozone where they are operating;
3. For those authorized by PEZA to locate their operations in the ecozones, updated Permit to Locate;
4. For non-PEZA locator enterprises, a duly notarized undertaking stating that they will register with PEZA as ecozone locator enterprises immediately upon the award of the property to them;
5. Bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid offer in the form of either cash or manager's/cashier's check payable to PEZA.

Term of Payment: Cash to be paid within ten (10) days from receipt of notice of award.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on November 23, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the Audio-Visual Room, 2nd Floor BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan.

Submission and opening of sealed bids shall be on November 28, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Building, BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan.

For further particulars, please contact **Engr. Dionisio T. Samen / Ms. Tessie D. Don** at the BEZ Administration Building or at Tel. No. (047) 935-5002 / 935-4009.

The PEZA-BEZ reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects and informality contained therein and accept and award the bid which is considered advantageous to PEZA-BEZ.

(Sgd.) **DIONISIO T. SAMEN**
Chairperson, BEZ-BAC

Noted:

(Sgd.) **DANTE M. QUINDOZA**
Zone Administrator

(PDI - Nov. 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY
NDA Bldg., BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue
1100 Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 926-0733 to 36 / Telefax (632) 926-8847
E-mail: buhaynda@mail.com
Email: dairynda@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO OFFER A BID

The **NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY (NDA)**, through its *Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)*, invites sealed written tenders for the supply and delivery of:

- **Four Hundred Fifty (450) head of Imported Pregnant Holstein x Sahiwal Breed Dairy Heifers:**
  - **Having Holstein blood composition of 50-75%;**
  - **In calf with offspring having Holstein blood composition not lower than 62.5%;**
  - **Covered with the necessary veterinary and feed supplies during in-transit to and quarantine period with available breeding and Three (3) Generation Pedigree records.**
- **Five (5) containers Bayticol (20L/container) with applicator and backpack**

with an Approved Budget for the supply and delivery of dairy heifers including veterinary supplies amounting to **FORTY MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php 40,500,000.00)** sourced from the NDA animal fund.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualication and award of Contracts shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The tenderers shall be required to submit until **December 17, 2007**, the following documents for pre-qualification:

1) Certified list of related contracts ongoing and completed for the past five (5) years including quantity and specifications name of client with telephone numbers, date of contract and project cost.
2) Articles of Incorporation or Partnership
3) Audited Financial Statement for the current and previous year
4) Latest Income and Business Tax Returns duly stamped and received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and duly validated with the tax payments made (per EO 398 dated January 12, 2005)
5) Tax clearance from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (per EO 398 dated January 12, 2005)
6) Business license/registration
7) Authority of the Local Representative, if any
8) Company Profile

Distribution of Tender Documents for the supply and delivery of dairy animals may be obtained by pre-qualified Tenderers from the NDA BAC Secretariat from **November 23, 2007** upon payment of **US Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (US$250.00). A Pre-Bid Conference for Qualified Tenderers** shall be conducted on **December 04, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.** and the **Opening of Bids** shall be held on **December 17, 2007 at 10:30 a.m.** Sealed bids in duplicate shall be received at the NDA BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, NDA Bldg., BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

NDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts hereof, to waive any information therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to NDA.

(Sgd.) **RENE M. DE GUZMAN**
Chairman, BAC
November 15, 2007

(PDI – November 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

ROSARIO VICTORIA APOLONIO
represented by DECENA APOLONIO
BUTCON,
Petitioner,

– versus – **SSC Case No. 8-16002-05**
SILVANA GAGAS,
Respondent.
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor.
x -x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO: SILVANA GAGAS
GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 19th day of September, 2006, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of six (6) pages, was promulgated in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

> "**WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED**, this Commission finds, and so holds, that Petitioner Rosario Victoria Apolonio and Antonia Roque Apolonio are the primary beneficiaries of the deceased SSS member Antonio Ignacio Apolonio and lawfully entitled to the latter's SS death benefit to the exclusion of the Respondent Silvana Gagas.
>
> Accordingly, the SSS is hereby ordered to pay Petitioner Rosario Victoria Apolonio and Antonia Roque Apolonio the appropriate death and dependent's pension benefits effective from the date of death of Antonio Ignacio Apolonio on November 22, 1997, subject to its existing rules and regulations, and to inform this Commission of its compliance herewith.
>
> **SO ORDERED.**"

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI – November 21, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 454-0254
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of IBM Lotus Domino Collaboration Express Software (100 clients)

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P6,000,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***supply and delivery of IBM Lotus Domino Collaboration Express Software (100 clients).***

Bids received in excess of the ABC for each project shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the ***supply and delivery of IBM Lotus Domino Collaboration Express Software (100 clients).*** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P2,500.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Prospective bidders who secured the bidding documents for the failed bidding of November 5, 2007 are no longer required to pay anew the non-refundable fee for the bid documents.

Activities related to the project are as follows:

Pre-Bid Conference	December 4, 2007, 2:00 p.m.
Submission of Bids	December 17, 2007, 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Opening of Bids	December 17, 2007, 2:00 p.m.
Venue of Activities	NFA Board Room, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person — Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address — Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No. — (632) 455 2758
Mobile Phone — (928) 4102732
e-mail address — vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Website — www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – November 21, 2007)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
200 Units Passbook Printer Plus Four (4) Years Maintenance Package	P9,116,000.00	November 29, 2007 9:00 AM	December 12, 2007 1:00 PM	P 4,600.00
1 Lot Supply of Technical Supervision/ Expertise, Materials, Tools, Equipment and Labor for the Proposed Retrofitting and Rehabilitation of Power Substation Accessories and Equipment (Phase II) at LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila	P16,528,000.00	November 29, 2007 10:00 AM	December 12, 2007 1:00 PM	P 8,300.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the Procurement Department starting November 21, 2007 upon payment of the non-refundable fees indicated above. A Pre-bid conference will be held at Procurement Department Bidding Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila, at the time and date indicated above.

Please address your queries to the Head-Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, or call 405-7370; 551-0000 locals 2290 & 2293.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Nov. 21, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
November 21, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1.	MITSUBA PHILIPPINES CORPORATION FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	Ms. Maho Okamoto/ Japanese	Assistant Admin. Manager
2.	DAE HAN PRODUCT LINE TRADING & MANUFACTURING CORPORATION 096 Del Rosario St., Tabon II, Kawit, Cavite	Mr. Hanggi Ha/ Korean	Operations Manager
3.	HAIYAN LANGUAGE ACADEMY, INC. Brgy. Lumil, Silang, Cavite	Ms. Sook Ja Kang (w/o Song)/ Korean	General Manager
4.	OPTIS PHILIPPINES, INC. Carmelray Industrial Park II, Calamba City	Ms. Kyung Lan Kim (w/o Ahn)/ Korean	Finance Manager
5.	UNITED STEEL CENTER MANILA, INC. Brgy. Samsim, Calamba City	Mr. Daiki Igarashi/ Japanese	Vice President for Administration and Production

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI–November 21, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education – Division of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Constructors/Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
LOT 1	DepED, Camarines Sur	Construction of 1 unit 2-storey 6 Classrooms School Building Construction of 1 unit 1 Classroom 7x7 Repair of 3 units School Building	P6,875,625.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with bidder's Largest Single Contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Funding Source: Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Efforts (CARE)

Contract Duration: One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement/Posting	November 15 - 21, 2007
2. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)	November 15 - 21, 2007 until 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office
3. Eligibility Check	November 23, 2007, 10:00 AM, DEPED Conference Hall
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 21 - 27, 2007
5. Pre-bid Conference	December 5, 2007, 1:00 PM DEPED Conference Hall
6. Submission and Opening of Bids	December 6, 2007, 10:00 AM, DepED Cam. Sur Division Conference Hall
7. Bid Evaluation	December 11, 2007
8. Post-qualification	December 12 - 17, 2007
9. Notice of Award	December 20, 2007

Bid Documents will be available from the Office of the BAC Secretariat only to eligible bidders upon presentation of Receipt of payment of a **non-refundable** amount of **P6,000.00** from the DEPED - Camarines Sur Cashier.

The DEPED - Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **EUFROSINA P. SABANDO, Ph. D.**
Acting BAC Chairman

(PDI--November 15 & 21, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education – Division of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
LOT 1	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,575/3,150 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 44	P 3,352,400.00
LOT 2	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,025/2,050 Sec. Armchairs - 1,450 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 69	P 3,531,940.00
LOT 3	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,050/2,100 Sec. Armchairs - 1,250 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 63	P 3,325,800.00
LOT 4	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 425/850 Sec. Armchairs - 1,338 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 187	P 3,390,700.00
Lot 5	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 425/850 Sec. Armchairs - 900 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 71	P 2,566,560.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with bidder's Largest Single Contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Funding Source: Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2006 General Appropriation Act (GAA)

Contract Duration: One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

A bidder can participate in any or all the lots but upon winning a lot, he/she is automatically disqualified in other lots.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement/Posting	November 15 - 21, 2007
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 22 - 27, 2007
3. Pre-bid Conference	December 5, 2007, 9:00 a.m. DEPED Conference Hall
4. Submission and Opening of Bids	December 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED Cam. Sur Division Conference Hall
5. Bid Evaluation	December 10, 2007
6. Post-qualification	December 11, 2007
7. Notice of Award	December 18, 2007

Bid Documents will be available from the Office of the BAC Secretariat to bidders upon presentation of Receipt of payment of a **non-refundable** amount of **P3,000.00** from the DEPED - Camarines Sur Cashier.

The DEPED - Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **EUFROSINA P. SABANDO, Ph. D.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 15 & 21, 2007)

PRESENTING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANILA - A SPEAKER FROM MALAYSIA

FANTASTIC PRODUCTS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY FROM THE US!!

ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO LOOK AT A NEW BUSINESS IDEA?

1. BEST International Company
2. BEST Pay plan in the market
3. BEST products with fantastic results
4. BEST people to work with - THAT'S OUR TEAM!!

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE MONEY BUT DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT?

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR JOB SECURITY OR WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE YOUR EARNING CAPACITY?

PRESENTATION ON THE 22ND OF NOVEMBER, 2007 AT 6:00 PM.

Please call or sms ESTER MERCADO on 09105291400, NITA at 0920-6307124 or LINDA on +60162067896

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that KROMINCO, INC. with office address at 2232 Pasong Tamo Avenue, Makati City is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an **Expanding Producer of Metallurgical Chromite Lumpy and Concentrates** on a **Non-Pioneer Status** with capacities of **16,236 Metric Tons and 20,200 Metric Tons per year**, respectively, with project/plant site located at **Loreto, Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – November 21, 2007)

More Classified Ads
PAGCOR A4
DOLE-NCR A9
AFP-RSBS A19
PHILIPPINE NAVY B2

How to protect your GSIS policy

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WHEN MY DAUGHTER JOINED A GOVernment hospital at age 35 in 1990, the GSIS insured her for P79,357 under an endowment at 55, as provided for in the implementing rules and regulations of RA 8291.

She will continue to pay premiums until she reaches the age of 55, at which time the policy will mature. Then, she will receive the sum insured less any outstanding loans. She can choose to receive the net amount either in lump sum, or as a monthly pension.

Among other things, the policy says, "After the insurance has been in force for at least one year and upon application, the member may be granted an insurance loan in an amount not exceeding 50 percent of the cash value of the insurance, subject to such rate of interest and repayment terms as may be prescribed by the system."

In the private sector, the policy includes a table of cash values. No such table is found either in my daughter's GSIS policy, in RA 8291, or in the implementing rules and regulations. At the GSIS, the table of cash values is a deep, dark state secret.

From the start, I suggested to my daughter that, as soon as she could, she should apply for a cash value loan. Then, she should pay it back through salary deductions. As soon as the loan is paid, she should apply for a new loan. In 1992, she took out a P6,203.88 loan. In 1994, after the loan was fully paid, she took out another loan of P15,002.49.

I explained to my daughter that, if she did not take out any loan, some well-connected character hiding in the GSIS woodworks would borrow in her behalf without her knowledge and consent. When the postman who delivered mail to my house for 30 years retired, he was told, to his utter amazement, that he had a big outstanding loan, which he never applied for nor received.

Also, I suggested to my daughter that she should keep a complete file of her pay slips, which should show the deductions pertaining to GSIS premiums. When she retires, she will need her file to prove that she had paid all her premiums. Otherwise, she could be shortchanged. Wittingly or unwittingly, GSIS files are notoriously messy.

You should occasionally check with your accounting department to make sure your premium and your employer's counterpart fund are being remitted to GSIS on time, and duly confirmed by official receipts from the GSIS.

In your behalf, your government employer pays a bigger share (as much as 57 percent) of your total premium. Your employer is also required under the law to collect your share of the premium and send it to the GSIS along with the employer's share. The law imposes severe penalties for failure on the part of the employer to do its bounden duty. The employee has all the rights to see to it that his employer is doing his job.

By the way, you do not lose any of your rights if your government employer does not remit the premium. But you may have to fight for those rights.

In most cases, after a lifetime of hard work, the most precious assets—sometimes, the only assets—that a government employee ends up with at retirement are the benefits granted under the GSIS law.

This should be enough reason for government employees to learn to stand up for their rights instead of acting like lambs being led to slaughter.

CURRENCIES

November 20, 2007

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.681896	1.000000	43.2780
Japan	Yen	0.006210	0.009107	0.3941
United Kingdom	Pound	1.397818	2.049900	88.7156
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087629	0.128508	5.5616
Switzerland	Franc	0.611346	0.896539	38.8004
Canada	Dollar	0.692843	1.016054	43.9728
Singapore	Dollar	0.470630	0.690179	29.8696
Australia	Dollar	0.603287	0.884721	38.2890
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.818340	2.666596	115.4049
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.183054	0.268449	11.6179
Brunei	Dollar	0.469011	0.687805	29.7668
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000073	0.000107	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.021748	0.031893	1.3803
UAE	Dirham	0.185803	0.272480	11.7924
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.466500	63.4672
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.001088	0.0471
China	Yuan**	0.091793	0.134615	5.8259
Denmark	Kroner	0.134200	0.196804	8.5173
India	Rupee	0.017382	0.025491	1.1032
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.202343	0.296736	12.8421
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514638	0.754717	32.6626
Sweden	Kroner	0.107844	0.158153	6.8445
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021075	0.030907	1.3376

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 19, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 19, 2007

Deficit drops in first 10 months

From page B1

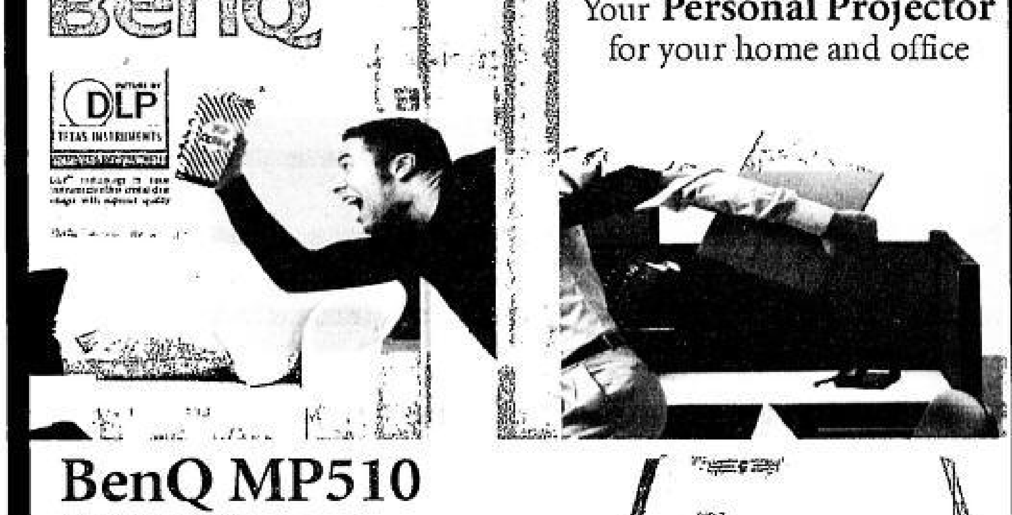
P937.4 billion for the 10-month period. Total disbursements from January to October were 10 percent higher from last year.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the 0.6-percent decline in expenditures for October was due to unfavorable weather conditions, which delayed the implementation of some infrastructure projects and likewise stalled the processing of payment for contracts.

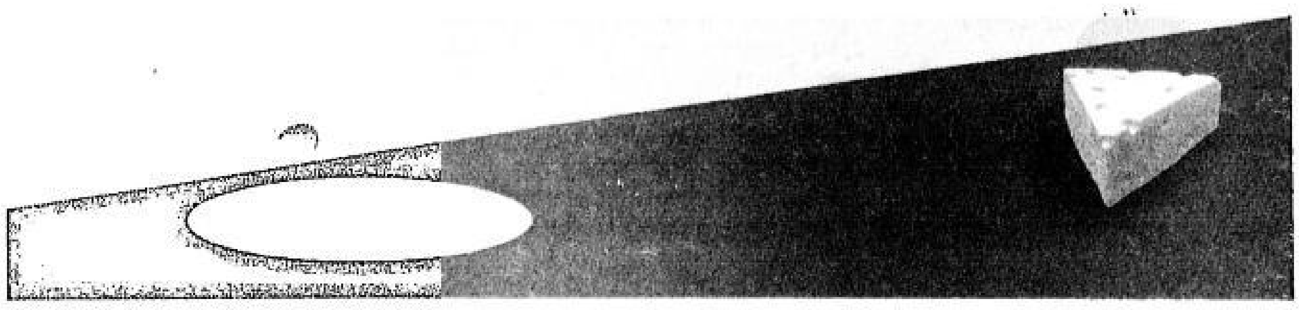
Excluding interest payments, total disbursements for the January to October period rose by 21 percent. Interest payments declined by 13 percent over the same period last year.

Interest savings were generated as the government's borrowing costs fell with the slowdown in local interest rates, while the peso sharply appreciated against the US dollar, likewise trimming the cost of servicing foreign obligations.

The peso, Asia's best performing currency so far this year, has rallied by over 12 percent since the start of 2007.



BenQ
Your Personal Projector for your home and office
BenQ MP510
1500 ANSI Lumens
SVGA (800x600 pixels)
2000:1 contrast ratio
2.6 kg. / 5.7 lbs.
160W, 2000/3000 lamp hours
(Normal/Economic Mode)
BenQ Windows Vista
Features:
* Freeze * Security Function
* Auto off * Presentation Timer
* Wall Color Correction
Php 27,888.00
Free 70"x70" Tripod Screen within Metro Manila only
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3691, Series of 2007
Get a chance to win Trips to Thailand
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.6316, Series of 2007
See flyers and posters for details
Distributed By:
ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC
For inquiries, pls. call us at:
833 Sheridan Street Mandaluyong City
Tel. No.: 634-8351



Who moved my cheese?
Learn how to identify current challenges, organizational realities and change.

Succesful Change Management Workshop
Managing Organizational Change
Facilitated by Dr. Agnes Sarthou, Ph.D.
December 18 - 19, 2007, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
Intercontinental Manila
LEARNING INVESTMENT: Early Bird Rate = P 12,977 + VAT
Regular Rate = P 13,977 + VAT
* Discover basic concepts and principles of managing organization change.
* Find out how to develop a "Change Intervention Plan" for your organization.
* Learn organizational methodologies & techniques to promote proactive planning change.
RAVE REVIEWS!
"Very productive 2-day learning!" - Maria Alma Nimfa Sayas Edan, Janssen Pharmaceutica
"The seminar provided a mix of professionals from different business backgrounds. Good learning environment!" - Alvin B. Pascual, Smart Communications, Inc.
"This is my first time to attend this session. So far, everything discussed is new and has been very helpful!" - Gregorio P. Calapang, North Luzon Command (NOLCOM)
OUR FACILITATOR
Agnes "Aggie" Sarthou, Ph.D. brings with her a wealth of corporate and training experience on disciplines of management, organization visioning, strategic planning as well as skills on leadership, communication, people handling and values.
For over twenty years of training and consultancy experience, Dr. Sarthou continues to receive encores in her training programs. She has trained and consulted with dozens of multinational clients.
SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME WITH CHANGE!
Call Nicole, Fina or Juliet at 8132732/03; 8302191
Email us at slvguru@pldtdsl.net; nicole@saltandlight.ph
Visit our website at www.saltandlightventures.net
PRODUCER AND ORGANIZER: SALT & LIGHT VENTURES, INC. Bringing out the BEST in you.
EVENT PARTNERS: INQUIRER The Leather Collection

Motorola GP3188 and GP2000
MOTOROLA
CH 002
GP2000
MOTOROLA
GP3188

NEVER HAS SO MUCH BEEN PACKED INTO SOMETHING SO AFFORDABLE
Packed with exceptional radio features and ergonomically-designed for intuitive navigation, the Motorola GP3188 and GP2000 two-way radios are excellent value for money. Their performance is extremely reliable, making them must-haves when managing various operations, from hospitality events to construction sites. Maximum efficiency at minimal cost. It's just another way Motorola puts Seamless Mobility in the palm of your hand. HELLOMOTO™
Authorized Distributor for Two-Way Radios & Accesssories
Thunder Enterprises (02-8446492)
Thunder Enterprises' Participating Sub-Dealers:
Metro Manila: 825 Electronics & Comm. Inc (02-9282027), 88 Electronics (02-3746253), Aigo Trading (02-3741581), Astron Comm. System (02-7283024), Armstrong Elect. Comm (02-7330022), Avesco Marketing Corp. (02-9128881), Bee Electronics (02-8905440), Contel Communications (02-8126256), CQDX Repair Center (02-7114895), Crystal Audio & Comm Technology Inc. (02-8738746), Digital Telecom System (02-4219122), Edcelcom (02-7212416), First Voice Services Corp. (02-3746642), Futex Marketing (02-9125118), GA Technology Systems (02-6327978), Goodhand Security Products (02-2593465), Highlander Phils. Inc (02-3735812), LM Comm. Tech & Systems (02-4149259), Maximum Electronics & Comm. Inc. (02-4112480), Natividad Enterprises (02-6450633), Nextwave Communications Inc. (02-3091814), Onward Communication & Services (02-3715177), Rapid Radio Comm. Inc. (02-8721291), Syntech System (02-8171449), Solar Communications (02-7330464), Textron Corporation (02-7268686), Trilink Technology (02-6098026), Triton Comm. Corp. (02-6387147), Wattmasters Corporation (02-7124846)
Luzon: DAR Electronics (045-3220850), GGG Enterprises (045-9663282), RAJ Communications (074-6192349)
Visayas: Hello Marketing (032-2533493), Nyxta Electric Center (033-3371010), Textron Corp. (032-2554252)
Mindanao: Celestial Sphere Enterprises (082-2211908), Davao Domart Ent. Co (082-2213005), EBC Electronics & Comm (088-8564151), KIRE Equipment Sales (085-3415050), National Commercial-Main (062-9912738)
Get a FREE Motorola MagOne Earpiece (Model: PLM4442AR) worth Php 1,200 when you buy one unit of Motorola GP2000 or Motorola GP3188*
Other terms and conditions apply
Promo Period is from November 7 until December 21, 2007
* Free gift with purchase & warranty of Motorola Two-Way radios do not apply to parallel imported products.
See posters for details!
MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All other product or service names are the property of their respective owners. © Motorola, Inc. 2007. All rights reserved.
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3821 Series of 2007

Federal Land, Orix forge P4-B joint venture deal

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY DEVELOPER FEDERAL Land Inc. of the Metrobank Group has partnered with Japan's biggest high-rise condominium developer, Orix Corp., to put up a P4-billion upscale condominium project in Makati City.

Federal Land president Alfred Ty said in a briefing yesterday that the project, dubbed "The Grand Midori Makati", on Legaspi Street would start construction in 2009 and may be completed by 2011.

Midori is the Japanese word for the color green.

Federal Land and Orix Corp. signed a memorandum of understanding last July 6 for the project.

The two companies were expected to file within the week registration papers concerning the joint venture with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Federal Land will have majority control (60 percent) of the joint venture company—Federal Land Orix Corp.—that will undertake the project.

Orix's contribution to the project includes expertise in engineering and architectural design, interior design and project management.

Federal Land is upbeat on the property sector and expects to invest P6 billion in different real estate projects.

Ty said Federal Land was embarking on a P2-billion business process outsourcing development on a 1.5 hectare area within its 40-hectare Metropolitan Park property in Pasay City.

Ty also said Federal Land would spend roughly P4 billion to expand its luxury condominium Bay Garden community in Metropolitan Park in Pasay City.

The expanded area will consist of residential units, serviced apartments and sports amenities.

Federal Land has a land bank of 200 to 250 hectares and is the owner, developer and manager of GT Tower International (Makati) , PS Bank Tower (Makati), Skyland Plaza (Makati), Ocean Tower (Roxas Boulevard), Oriental Garden Makati, Metropolitan Park (Pasay), Marquinton Residences (Marikina) and Blue Wave Malls on Macapagal Boulevard and in Marikina.

Shares ...

From page B1

Decliners overwhelmed advancers 126 to 10, while 38 stocks were steady.

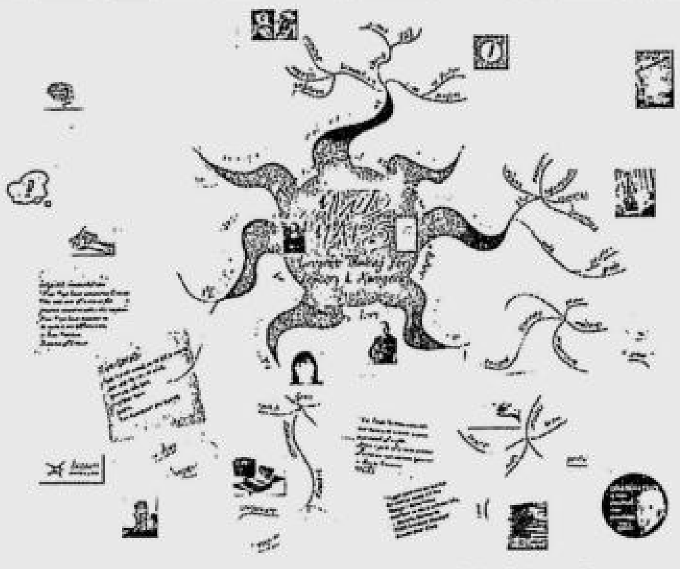
Volume amounted to 2.8 billion shares worth P4.2 billion ($96.57 million).

"At this point, there's no need to talk about attractive valuations," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.

"There's renewed risk aversion, and if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen," Ravelas added. "The liquidity squeeze is likely to become a more serious global problem in coming months."

Almost all of the key index-linked stocks came under strong selling pressure, with market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. down P65 at P3,015. *AFP*

Discover how to plan, set goals, brain-storm and write proposals 4x faster!



WHY PEOPLE LOVE MINDMAPPING!

"Excellent seminar! Very beneficial to work! I don't think I'll ever go back to my 'old way of doing things.' It's Mind Maps forever!"
~ *Sherwin M. Pelayo, Accenture*

"It's an interactive workshop! I also enjoyed the interaction with the facilitator, teammates, and co-participants!"
~ *Yoling Sevilla, The Leather Collection*

"It's a creative way of thinking for different situations - life planning, strategic planning, meetings, and designing programs!"
~ *Lea M. Dublado, Petron Corporation*

"Mind Mapping is helpful in achieving results!"
~ *Michael Miranda, BPI*

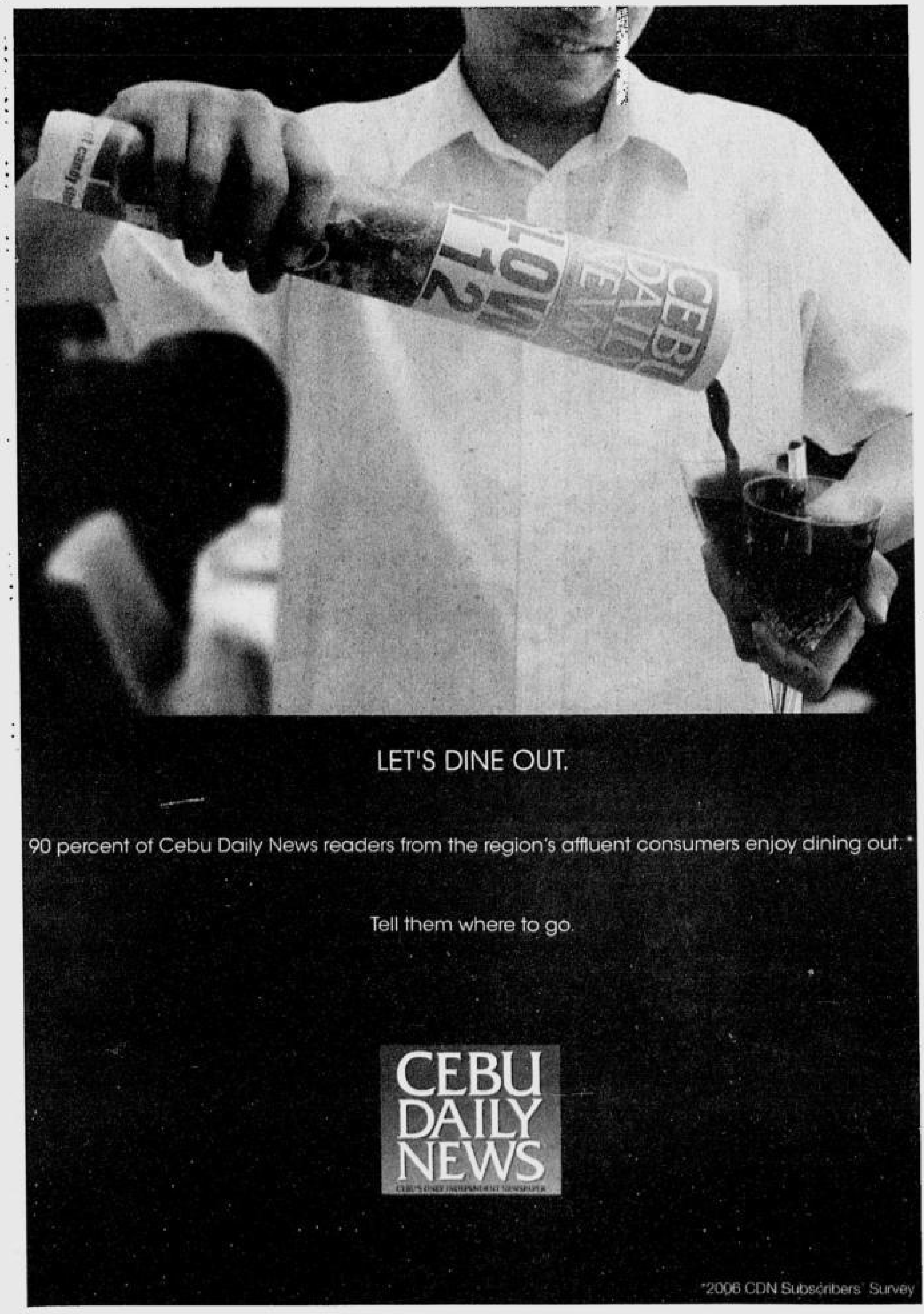
Mind Mapping: Creative Thinking for Leaders and Managers™
Designed by Tony Buzan
Holder of the World's Highest Creativity IQ and Creator of the Mind Mapping thinking technique
November 28 - 29, 2007 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Dusit Hotel Nikko

Unleash your brain's full potential in two days, learn how to:
- Brainstorm better and faster through the Bloom™ techniques and generate 10x more creative ideas.
- Plan and set goals, write proposals and letters 4x faster
- Multi-task and set priorities with ease
- Prepare better for presentations, meetings and briefings with confidence and less stress - and much more!

Producer & Organizer: SALT&LIGHT VENTURES, INC.
Event Partner: INQUIRER
pdi11192007

Agnes "Aggie" Sarthou, Ph.D.
Facilitator
Dr. Sarthou brings with her a wealth of corporate training experience on disciplines of management, organization visioning, strategic planning as well as skills on leadership, communications, people handling and values. Dr. Sarthou was recently trained in Creativity and Mind Mapping by Buzan Asia in Singapore. In this two day program, Dr. Sarthou enables participants to manage their workload, plan high impact presentations and solve the toughest of business dilemmas through Mind Maps.

Call Nicole at 813-2732/03 Email at nicole@saltandlight.ph
Visit our website at www.saltandlightventures.net



LET'S DINE OUT.

90 percent of Cebu Daily News readers from the region's affluent consumers enjoy dining out.*

Tell them where to go.

CEBU DAILY NEWS

*2006 CDN Subscribers' Survey

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 20, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	15,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	54	54	51.5	52.5	1,836,700
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	63.5	63.5	60.5	61	4,100,800
748	540	China Banking Corp.	680	685	670	680	8,490
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	14	14	800
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	220,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	53.5	53.5	51	52	3,791,800
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	43	43	42.5	43	310,400
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	61	61	60.5	61	2,700
39.57	20	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.25	24.25	23.5	23.75	1,511,200
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	69	69	67	68	3,100
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	1,086,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	65,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	763,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11.5	11.5	10.75	11	1,094,500
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.88	0.88	180,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	963,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,680.00	1,700.00	110
5	2.85	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.9	5,965,000
3.1	1.32	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.82	1.94	1.82	1.94	57,000
1,390.00	247	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,110.00	1,110.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	7,150
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	2,200.00	100
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	1,058,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.9	1,249,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60	57	57.5	1,045,100
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	67	67	64	65	2,227,200
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	16.25	16.5	15.75	16.25	6,913,300
105.45	27.73	Manila Electric Company	74.5	74.5	69.5	71	1,316,000
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7	7	6.9	7	8,133,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	8,358,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	7,000
2.04	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.5	1.5	1.38	1.4	2,564,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5	5	4.95	4.95	6,259,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.7	1.72	503,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	48	48	46	47.5	674,100
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.69	0.69	140,000
3.55	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	196,000
80	49	San Miguel Corp. A	50	50	49	49.5	34,700
88	49.5	San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	51.5	49.5	50	72,600
0.66	0.33	Swift Foods Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	110,000
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	10,000
20.75	13.5	Universal Robina Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.75	2,840,200
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	375,000
21.5	6	Federal Res. Investment Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	8	8	834,000
7	3.2	Republic Cement Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	129,000
2	0.71	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1	1.02	0.98	1.02	4,309,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.15	97,000
2.4	1.31	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	40,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	9,740,000
9	7.6	Splash Corp	8	8	7.7	7.9	857,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. - Phil. Deposit Receipts	33	33	32.5	32.5	100,400
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.2	3.3	193,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.12	0.13	171,770,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.57	0.58	4,410,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.75	136,000
3.7	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. B	2.65	3	2.65	3	132,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	105,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	6,000,000
9.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.7	5,590,000
0.021	0.009	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	178,300,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.3	5.3	5	5.2	22,447,000
1.38	0.56	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	310,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.42	2.46	5,868,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	560	570	555	570	457,420
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	1,600
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	2,482,000
12	4.95	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.25	10.25	1,011,100
8	3.15	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	192,000
3.55	1.72	House of Investments Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	167,000
14.5	8.4	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.75	10.75	10	10.25	17,900
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	21,000
0.8	0.23	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.3	6.4	5.9	6.1	3,514,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	25,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. A	0.22	0.235	0.215	0.235	372,620,000
1.54	0.65	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	1,950,000
2.1	1.3	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	275,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	355	355	347.5	350	415,100
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	5,910,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.42	166,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.28	8,320,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	110,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	250,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.6	7.2	7.5	39,000
1.06	0.4	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	200,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16	16	15.5	16	12,076,100
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	1,664,000
4.7	2.95	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	14,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,910,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	14,150,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.23	2,970,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.95	12,240,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.62	25,485,000
2.9	1.18	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	26,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	10,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	3.9	4	3.85	3.95	44,956,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.3	333,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	3.3	3.3	3.15	3.2	587,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	730,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	1,670,000
9.2	1.32	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.75	5.2	3.75	5.2	89,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.25	18.25	17.5	17.75	658,100
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	3.8	4	3.8	4	265,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	11.25	9,072,700
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.18	2.22	2.18	2.22	105,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.16	2.16	586,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,300,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	4.75	4.95	4.75	4.9	15,749,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	33	32	32.5	165,400
12	7.9	GMA Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	1,782,000
11.75	7.8	GMA Network Inc	8	8	7.8	7.8	501,000
1.14	0.9	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	20,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.36	56,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,580.00	1,580.00	1,485.00	1,500.00	70,570
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,050.00	3,050.00	2,995.00	3,015.00	164,760
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.1	7.2	7	7	8,975,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.185	1,070,000
14.75	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.75	864,100
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	8	8	7.5	8	567,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.039	14,100,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	50,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.049	36,900,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l Inc	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.75	740,000
		TRANPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	69,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	30,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39.5	39.5	37.5	38.5	1,856,200
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	55,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	24,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc	0.91	0.97	0.89	0.95	11,790,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	3,190,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	6,000
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	900	900	900	900	180
3.7	2.6	IPeople Inc	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	190,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	617,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.75	878,900
30	6.7	Paxys Inc.	7.3	7.3	6.7	6.7	7,775,000
410	390	eTelecare Global Solutions Inc	395	410	390	395	121,660
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	318,000,000
6.9	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	1,143,000
7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	799,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	916,000
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	12.25	12.25	11.5	11.5	44,600
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9	9.2	8.8	9	627,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.84	1.86	1.76	1.82	53,123,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.51	0.53	0.49	0.5	225,060,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.55	0.56	0.53	0.54	77,830,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	278,300,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.031	0.029	0.03	99,000,000
30	2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	19	19	18	18.25	1,940,800
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	16,100,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	44,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.3	9.5	16,705,000
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	42	42	40.5	40.5	8,600
1.36	0.5	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.73	0.73	420,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	756,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	8,480,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	162,300,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	53,800,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.9	169,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	251,200,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	846.82	DOWN	38.99	23,040,550	690,124,190.00
Industrial	4,133.67	DOWN	141.82	61,084,200	690,972,345.00
Holding Firms	2,035.09	DOWN	40.81	897,881,120	732,975,785.00
Property	1,609.36	DOWN	25.53	147,057,900	624,052,225.00
Service	1,792.49	DOWN	47.98	90,846,770	895,602,530.00
Mining & Oil	8,165.46	DOWN	393.51	1,566,222,000	507,155,200.00
All Shares Index	2,163.73	DOWN	59.26		
PSEI	3,540.61	DOWN	104.61		
		GRAND TOTALS		2,786,132,540	4,140,882,275.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Into Your hands I commit my spirit;
Redeem me, O lord, the God of truth
Psalm 31:5

Our beloved mother
TERESITA ABAYA OKOL

died in the peace of the Lord on November 14, 2007 at the age of 70.

We, **Col. CESAR C. OKOL**; children **CECILE, BUDDY, COCOY**; children-in-law **Ogie, Teyene, Richard**; grandchildren **Richie, Gabriel, Kashka, Igii, Isabella, Hunter, Noah, Charlize**; her brother **Atty. Gavino P. Abaya, Jr.** and children; her sister **Rosario Abaya Atienza** and children would like to thank our relatives and friends who expressed their deepest love for us during this most difficult time. We will surely miss Mommy but your presence in our lives will make the rest of our journey lighter.

Thank you for everything and please continue praying for the eternal repose of Mommy's soul.

So dearly loved
So fondly remembered
So truly missed

In loving memory on the
1st Death Anniversary
of his birth to eternal
life on November 22, 2006

ANTONIO A. AGUILAR, CPA

of Jones, Isabela

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In Loving Memory

Fifteen years ago, Nov. 21, 1992,
a loving devoted wife, mother and grandmother

Luz Bautista Marcelo

Left this world to join our Creator in His Heavenly Kingdom.
Her Family requests relatives and friends to remember her
in prayers on this day.

"Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her."

Holy masses will be offered today, Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007.

Immaculate Conception Parish, Malabon City	6:00 am; 6:00 pm
Carmel of St. Therese Church, Quezon City	7:00 am
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 am
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	7:30am; 12:15 pm; 6 pm
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Quezon City	8:00 am
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Pangasinan	7:00 am
National Shrine of Mother of Perpetual Help, Baclaran	5:30 am
Nstra. Sra. de Guia Parish, Ermita, Manila	8:00 am
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Pasay City	6:00 am
Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila	6:00 am; 7 am; 6:00 pm
Our Lady of Pilar Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila	8:00 am
Fr. Pio of Pietrelcina Chapel, Pasig City	5:00 pm
St. Francis Church, Mandaluyong	7:00 am
National Shrine of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila	6:00 am
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila	6:30 am
St. John the Baptist Parish, Quiapo Church, Manila	6:00 am
Carmel of Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of all Grace, Lipa City	6:00 am
Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Piat, Piat, Cagayan	8:00 am

ISABEL BIGORNIA QUINTO

Born: Nov. 2, 1932
Died: Nov. 18, 2007

Husband: **Eladio Fajardo Quinto** (deceased)

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel,
C. Raymundo St.corner Mercedes Avenue,
San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Nov. 24, 2007, Saturday at 8:30 a.m.
at Evergreen Memorial Park.

Rosemarie - Teodoro Rey
Joseph - Felicidad
Antonio (Deceased) **- Julieta**
Edgar - Cynthia
Marlyn - Augusto Salcedo
Diosdado - Gerlen
Maria Isabel - Frederick Cureg
Maria Lourdes

---

07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS
P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776/7964377
09213497170

BUYING
ROLEX • Patek Philippe • AP
Panerai • IWC • Omega • Cartier
Also Diamonds and unusual watches
09178884040
7269687
email: worldwatch@gmail.com

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
& other SWISS WATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
3829198
8341572
MAKATI • GREENHILLS • PASAY

Judge Juan Luna HS '73 alumni Christmas party on Dec. 8

JUDGE JUAN LUNA High School Batch 73 will hold an alumni Christmas reunion party on Dec. 8 at Judge Juan Luna High School audio visual room. The event is set to relive the wonderful high school memories and experiences through a special Christmas festivity, which features activities aimed at fostering camaraderie and recollection of forged friendships on campus.

Join and participate in this blissful and meaningful occasion, reminisce the good old days, and amplify our school spirit to incalculable levels with our former classmates.

For details, contact Josie Santillan Jimenez - 480-5393, 233-2370, 252-5231, CP 0915-3793813, Chito Celestial - 455-6202, CP 0918-4089611, Rudy San Gabriel at 0919-4413140, and Mar Delos Reyes at 890-1185, CP 0917-8032021.

OBITUARIES

Death Notice

ELISEO C. LORENZANA

Jan. 29, 1913 - Nov. 18, 2007

Peacefully died at the age of 94.

His body lies at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapel (near Antipolo Church), Antipolo Rizal.

Interment will be on Friday, November 23, 2007.

JAIME ERNESTO B. BASA

March 6, 1960 - Nov. 12, 2007

His body will lie at Chapel Fir, Sanctuarium, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City as soon as the body arrives on the night of November 22, 2007 from Australia.

Tentative interment will be on November 27, 2007 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
for IMPORTED INSTANT NOODLES

- College graduate
- At least 5 years experience in handling supermarket and grocery store accounts
- With experience in selling instant noodles and supermarket products to major supermarket and grocery stores
- Male or Female, 25-35 years old

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resume with photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
1344 Angono St., Makati City
or call Ms. Dorie Ramilo
Tel. Nos.: **897-6819** loc. **111** or **899-6439**
or Mrs. Emily Gepilano at tel. nos.: **850-1803** or **807-2454**

We offer attractive basic salary plus commission to successful candidates.

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes St. cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.), Sampaloc, Manila hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid and Description	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
1. DIGITAL DUPLICATOR	15 units	P 5,925,000.00	November 26, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 7, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 6,000.00
2. SHREDDER MACHINE	15 units	P 1,349,000.00	November 26, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 7, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 1,400.00
3. COLLATING MACHINE	4 units	P 2,520,000.00	November 27, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 10, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 2,500.00
4. AIRCONDITIONING UNITS (including installation) -WINDOW TYPE Capacity : 2.5 HP	16 units	P 3,659,788.00	November 27, 2007 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 10, 2007 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P 3,700.00
FLOOR MOUNTED SPLIT TYPE Capacity : 3 tons 1 phase	26 units				
FLOOR MOUNTED SPLIT TYPE Capacity : 5 tons 3 phase	11 units				
FLOOR MOUNTED SPLIT TYPE Capacity : 10 tons 3 phase	4 units				
CEILING MOUNTED TYPE Capacity : 5 tons 3 phase	5 units				

Only bidders registered with the Electronic Procurement Service for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained at cost by interested bidders starting on November 21, 2007 from the Office of the BAC Secretariat.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids to determine whether the bidder concerned complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions for eligibility.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" (GPRA), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) **LEONOR T. ROSERO**
Chairperson

(PDI-Nov. 21, 2007)

OBITUARIES

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." — 2 Timothy 4:7

In Loving Memory

RODOLFO "Ody" M. SAYO

June 7, 1949 – October 8, 2007

The family invites relatives and friends to join them in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Saturday, November 24, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Christ the King Chapel, Greenmeadows, Q.C.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. : 712-3001 • 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Salud Abeleda Luna	107 K-2nd St., Kamuning, Q.C.	Nov. 24, 2007 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass	Himlayang Pilipino
Engracio de Gracia	Chapel-7	Nov. 22, 2007 after the 12:00 noon Mass	Paz Crematory

---

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

eTelecare bares expansion plans

CALL CENTER OPERATOR ETELECARE Global Solutions Inc. is expanding its operations in the Philippines this year by adding 1,100 seats.

The company currently operates 7,200 seats in the country and 2,800 seats in the United states.

Following the company's listing rites at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati, eTelecare chief finance officer Michael Dodson said the company would add 500 seats in the fourth quarter and its recent acquisition of an AOL unit in Pampanga would bring in another 600 seats.

eTelecare announced the AOL acquisition last September for $7.2 million.

Benedict Hernandez, eTelecare general manager for Philippine operations, said the firm's Asiatown IT park facility in Lahug, Cebu would account for the additional 500 seats. eTelecare operates two call centers in the area.

It has facilities in Mandaluyong, Alabang, Libis in Quezon City, and Makati.

It is launching another four-story facility in Makati next year.

The company expects its revenues to grow to more than $250 million this year, and its net income to hit $20.2 million to $20.8 million.

On its maiden trading day, eTelecare opened and closed yesterday at P395 per share, down from the offer price of P400 a share.

Founded in 1999, eTelecare is a leading provider of business process outsourcing services. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

BSP posts 9-mo net loss of ₱29B

Forex losses slightly down in Sept.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS' foreign exchange losses dropped slightly to P48.29 billion in end-September from about P50 billion in July as its US dollar purchases slowed down.

However, the BSP still incurred a net loss of P28.93 billion in the first nine months, more than 340 percent bigger than the P6.53 billion in net loss a year ago, the central bank's statement of income and expense showed.

If not for the foreign exchange losses, the central bank would have posted a net income of P19.37 billion during the period.

Total revenue, particularly interest income, amounted to P66.92 billion during the period, while expenses hit P47.56 billion.

The net losses stemmed from the BSP's "long" (buy) position on the US dollar, which resulted in the buildup of its gross international reserves to record-highs. As of end-September, the country's GIR has reached $31 billion.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of its economy, composed of the central bank's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights from multilateral institutions.

BSP reports showed its net purchases from the open market for September amounted to about $600 million.

The BSP's forex losses peaked in July prior to the US subprime crisis that triggered a global investor aversion to assets in emerging markets.

The crisis was caused by rising delinquency in subprime mortgages or credit given to borrowers with blemished credit history and little equity.

The growth of the US subprime mortgage market was facilitated by several measures put in place by the US government, such as state imposition of interest rate caps on housing loans, tax deductible interests on residential mortgages and legal provisions on automatic underwriting and issuance of asset-backed securities. The environment encouraged many to overstretch their finances by purchasing even risky products.

Thus, when the US Federal Reserve increased interest rates, many borrowers ended up defaulting on their loan payments as prepayment and refinancing options were not feasible due to inadequate housing equity.

For its part, the BSP has been intermittently buying more dollars at the spot foreign exchange market to curb the peso's sharp appreciation. This intervention slowed down in August to mid-September.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur C. Yap shows a pompano harvested in the marine cages of Gawad Saka Outstanding Fisher Folk Peter Uy (middle) in Campuyo, Manjuyod, Negros Oriental. With them is Melchor Tayamen (left), chief of the National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Center. Pompano is among the species preferred by the aquaculture sector because of its high value and good export market potential, and the availability of fingerlings as well as high quality formulated feeds.

Build Your Trust in IntelliCare Clinics

People have a general impression that HMO clinics are not as good as hospitals.

They say the fact that the clinics are not as vastly equipped in terms of facilities as well as medical experts that only a major hospital can offer. This means that their services might not be good enough. Some of them actually say that since the costs are far lesser than those of hospitals, the services might not be at par.

But leading HMO IntelliCare is helping make all these change.

IntelliCare cardholders have many reasons to be satisfied. For one, opting to go to the clinic puts their worry about high medical costs aside.

IntelliCare's Assistant Medical Director Dr. Gerry Jico who is in charge of the recruitment of doctors/consultants and setting medical standards, says countless many of IntelliCare's cardholders who have gone to its clinics have actually realized that that it was a better option cost-wise considering that the service and the care the clinic gave them was generally the same minor hospitals usually offer. Furthermore, the clinics reduce the hassle of competing for time with a multitude of patients who seek the advice of hospital professionals.

Starting out

IntelliCare clinics started out as a general outpatient facility that offered specialists in surgery, pediatrics and internal medicine that was complemented by an X-ray machine. Even when starting out in a modest way, the clinic's brand of service was way above its league.

Today, there are more IntelliCare clinics spread out in key points in the metropolis and its outskirts and they are all far more equipped than when they started, not only in terms of facilities and medical experts, but also in the way that the clinics render its services.

There are in fact already six IntelliCare clinics (a 7th is set to open in December) - Solid Mills Building in Makati, Estrella Building along Montillano Street in Alabang, Emerald Avenue in Ortigas Center, Old National Highway in Calamba, Laguna, inside Laguna Technopark in Biñan, and its latest in UN Avenue, Manila - all of them have become excellent medical facilities outside of a hospital.

Specialists on Board

One of the things that keep some patients away from HMO clinics is that their lack of trust in its doctors. They think that the doctors employed by the HMO do not have the experience one should receive from major hospitals. This leads them to conclude that HMO doctors do not have the right training to treat patients.

Not so with IntelliCare. It has built a very good reputation in terms of having the best medical personnel as partners. This reputation extends up to the quality of their clinics.

Unlike other clinics where it is the general practitioner that first - and sometimes the only one - that accommodates patients, IntelliCare clinics have 4 to 5 specialists on rotation each day.

And these are not solely clinic-based medical professionals. They are doctors who practice in hospitals. IntelliCare clinics have specialists that have since served the many respiratory, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and hypertensive cases that come to their clinics every day.

Its team of experts include cardiologists, pulmonologists, obstetrician-gynecologists, ENT specialists, and in three clinics, dental professionals. At its UN Avenue clinic, they actually offer rehabilitation/sports medicine specialists which offer medical service to orthopaedic cases.

Yet, even when equipped with the best professionals, IntelliCare of course continuously hires medical doctors to better serve its many cardholders.

The Right Facilities

In addressing the concern of patients over the facilities found in HMO clinics, IntelliCare has taken steps to upgrade its set of facilities.

Aside from its already existing laboratory capabilities which do blood chemistry tests, urinalysis, fecalysis and machines such as an X-ray, each IntelliCare clinic boasts of an ultrasound machine.

Also, three of its clinics already have dental facilities, with duly licensed dental professionals.

Laboratory Centralization

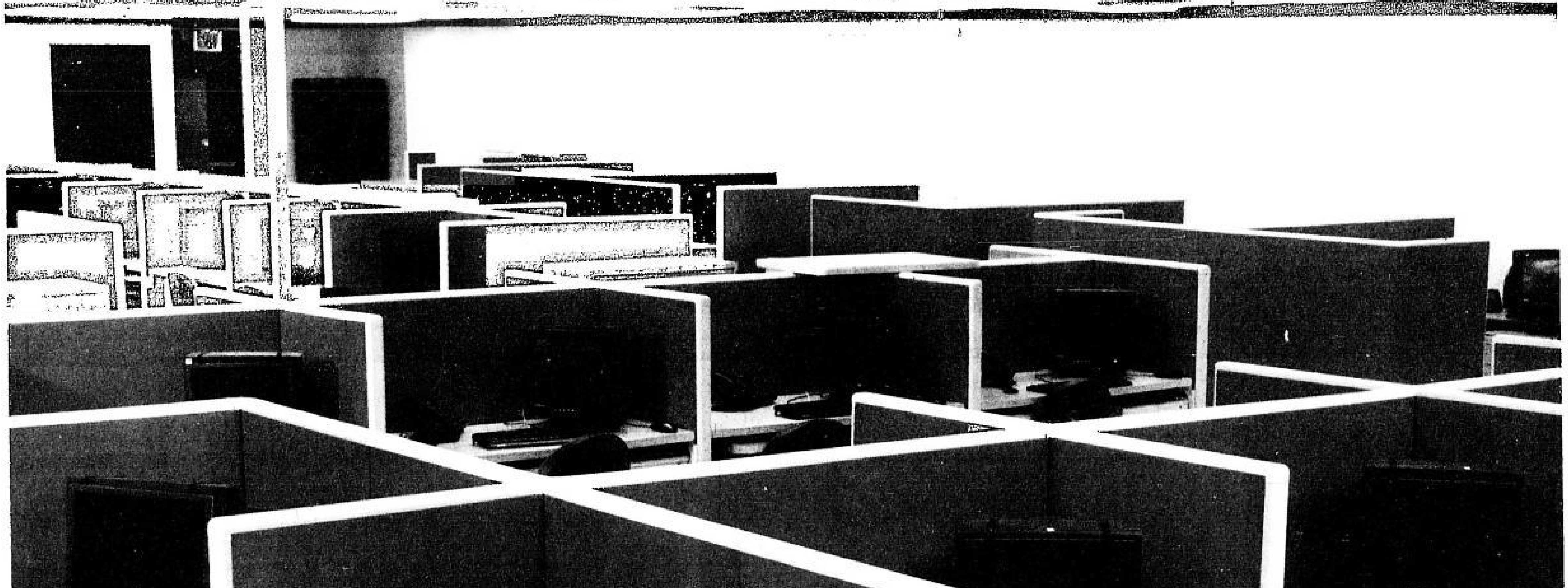
Having the right and enough laboratory equipment is also one of the concerns of patients. Since a majority of patients visit the clinics for pre-employment medical exams and regular check-ups, IntelliCare is in the process of upgrading further its already competent laboratory systems.

While there is enough laboratory equipment to address the basic diagnostic requirements in each clinic, IntelliCare is also in the process of centralizing its laboratory. To IntelliCare, the integrity of the results of the lab exams cannot be compromised. A centralized laboratory system means a more focused handling of the processes.

For this purpose, IntelliCare has made its clinic in Makati its central laboratory and its Skyland Plaza office its central processing office for the results of Annual Physical Examinations (APE) and Pre-employment examinations.

Mr. Joe la Yula, Senior Manager for Clinic Administration, who is in charge of the whole clinic operations of IntelliCare managed clinics says that in IntelliCare they are conscious of two things: one, medical expertise and two, character. To maintain these, they continuously train their staff and instill in them the value of giving patients the utmost care they deserve.

With this kind of care they give to patients, IntelliCare is right up there on par with major medical facilities. It is not only reliable, it is as just as first class.



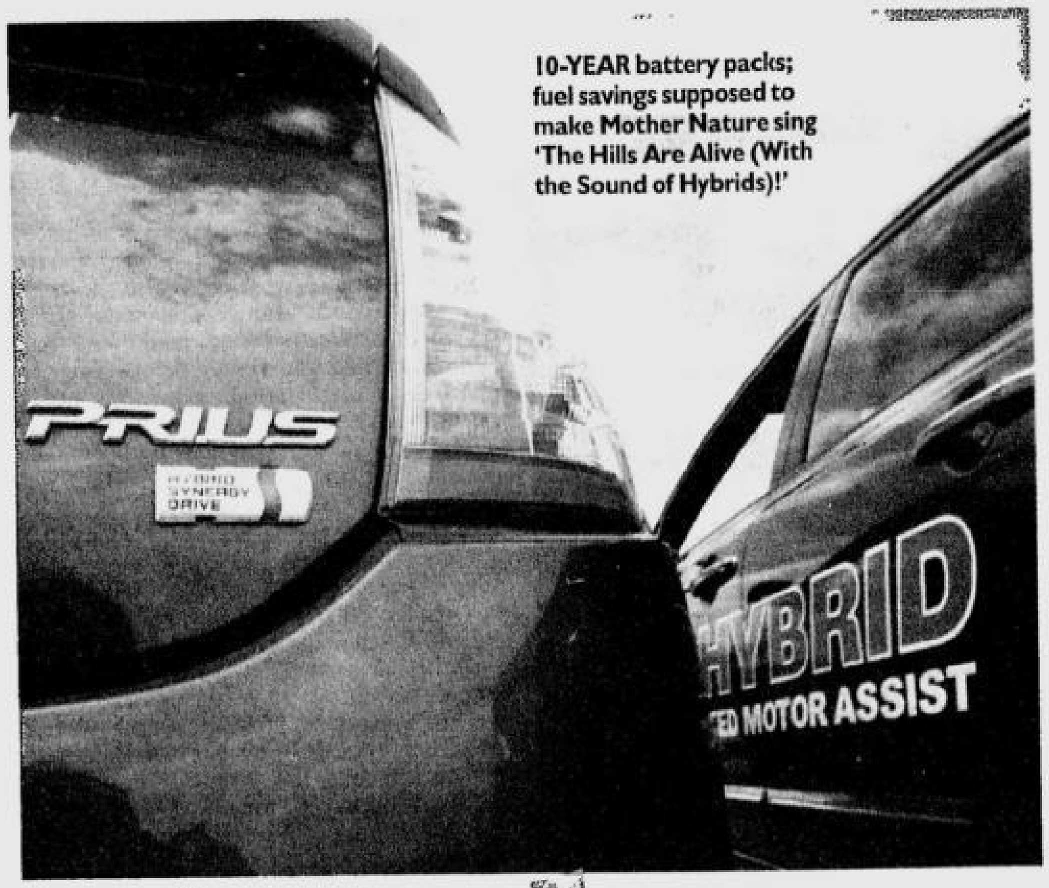
Looks like your company is catching a virus.

When staff is unhealthy, productivity drops. With top-quality, highly personalized healthcare services that are accessible and affordable, Intellicare is essential in strengthening your company's most valuable asset.

ADDRESS: 7th Floor, Feliza Building, V.A. Rufino St. (formerly Hererra St.), Legaspi Village, Makati City Philippines 1229
TEL: (02) 894-33-86 (connecting all departments) FAX: (02) 894-4642 Website: www.intellicare.com.ph

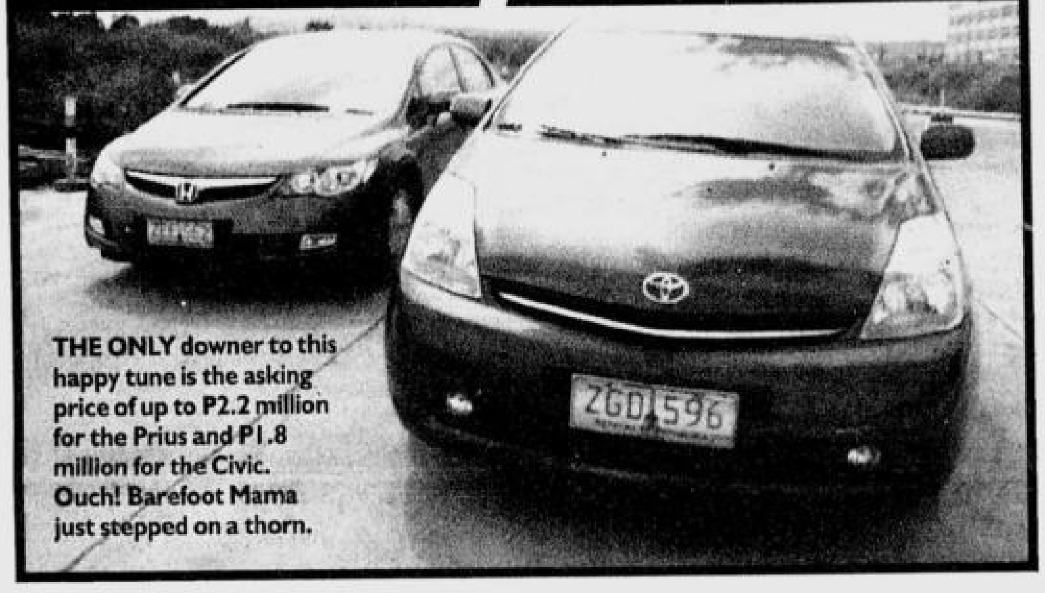
IntelliCare
YOUR INTELLIGENT HEALTH CHOICE

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
MOTORING
Text us your feedback: inquirer mtr name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



10-YEAR battery packs; fuel savings supposed to make Mother Nature sing 'The Hills Are Alive (With the Sound of Hybrids)!'

A tale of 2 hybrids



THE ONLY downer to this happy tune is the asking price of up to P2.2 million for the Prius and P1.8 million for the Civic. Ouch! Barefoot Mama just stepped on a thorn.

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

First of two parts

WAS IT JUST COINCIDENCE that as the INQUIRER flashed the news about climate change on its banner page, its Motoring section had in its possession (for a couple of days, at least) two hybrid cars from two of the world's trailblazers in hybrid power technology?

Maybe there has been, indeed, an ultimate purpose for endeavors that would, at first, seem meaningless and a waste of time. Take, for example, our effort to drive these two hybrid cars (a Toyota Prius and a Honda Civic with Integrated Motor Assist) through some of the most congested locations in Metro Manila at the worst possible driving times (payday Friday night and Saturday afternoon).

Thus, the 1.5-liter Prius (a second-generation test unit) and the 2006 Civic 1.3 i-DSi with IMA were virtually inseparable for two days, driven in identical routes and lanes, loaded up at the same fuel stations and subjected to the same traffic situations.

Two for the road

The Prius had already been test driven earlier this year by INQUIRER Motoring. This would be the first time, though, that it would have a fellow hybrid for a companion.

At the onset, the Prius evidently has a more space-age "look" than the Civic, owing to a prominent energy screen monitor at the center of the dashboard, a unique, tiny gearshift lever just below that monitor, and an EV mode on the left side of the dashboard. Pushing the EV button would give the driver full-time electric power for speed up to 42 kph for as far as 3 km, or depending on the battery charge levels.

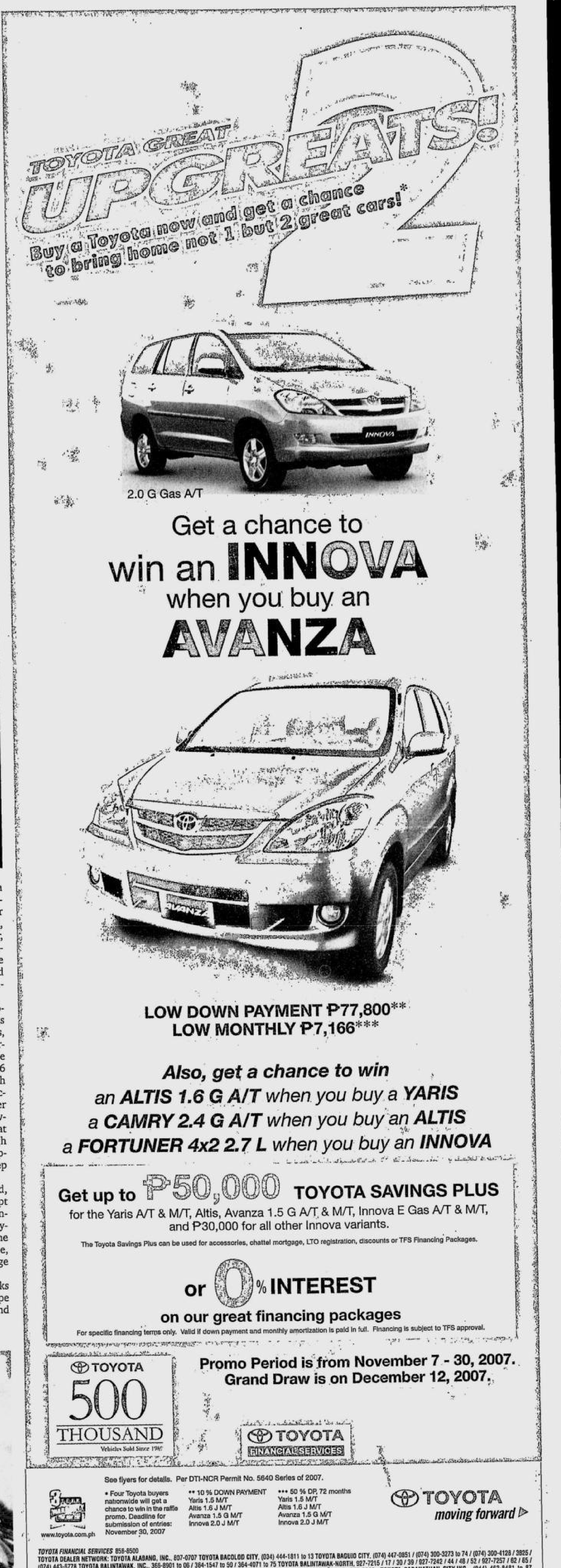
The Prius demolished all our misconceptions of hybrids as being slowpokes. This Prius, with a body as big as a 1.8-liter Altis, pulled like it was a 2-liter sedan, even during uphill runs. As we noted previously, the gasoline engine may produce a measly 76 hp at 5,000 rpm, but when combined with the 67 hp at 1,200 to 1,540 rpm of the electric engine, you effectively harness over 478 Nm (net of torque) and 110 horsepower at its peak. We have also observed that the electric motor's characteristic high torque was also an immense help on the uphill (both engines worked during steep climbs).

The Civic Hybrid, on the other hand, looks every bit a regular Civic sedan except for the large side markings spelling out "Integrated Motor Assist" and the decal "hybrid" at the rear. The digital monitors at the dash betray its hidden nature, of course, with noticeable gauges for battery charge and the IMA system.

The Civic driver control package looks more user friendly for its needle-type gauges, conventional ignition switch, and regular A/T gearshift lever.

CIVIC HYBRID
INTEGRATED MOTOR ASSIST

STOP for the car, go for the battery. Regenerative braking is an ingenious way of getting energy that would otherwise waste away as heat. The Civic Hybrid uses nickel-metal hydride batteries.


TOYOTA GREAT UPGREATS! 2
Buy a Toyota now and get a chance to bring home not 1 but 2 great cars!*

INNOVA
2.0 G Gas A/T

Get a chance to win an INNOVA when you buy an AVANZA

AVANZA

LOW DOWN PAYMENT ₱77,800**
LOW MONTHLY ₱7,166***

Also, get a chance to win
an ALTIS 1.6 G A/T when you buy a YARIS
a CAMRY 2.4 G A/T when you buy an ALTIS
a FORTUNER 4x2 2.7 L when you buy an INNOVA

Get up to ₱50,000 TOYOTA SAVINGS PLUS
for the Yaris A/T & M/T, Altis, Avanza 1.5 G A/T & M/T, Innova E Gas A/T & M/T, and ₱30,000 for all other Innova variants.
The Toyota Savings Plus can be used for accessories, chattel mortgage, LTO registration, discounts or TFS Financing Packages.

or 0% INTEREST
on our great financing packages
For specific financing terms only. Valid if down payment and monthly amortization is paid in full. Financing is subject to TFS approval.

TOYOTA 500 THOUSAND Vehicles Sold Since 1988

Promo Period is from November 7 - 30, 2007.
Grand Draw is on December 12, 2007.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5640 Series of 2007.

www.toyota.com.ph

* Four Toyota buyers nationwide will get a chance to win in the raffle promo. Deadline for submission of entries: November 30, 2007

** 10 % DOWN PAYMENT
Yaris 1.5 M/T
Altis 1.6 J M/T
Avanza 1.5 G M/T
Innova 2.0 J M/T

*** 50 % DP, 72 months
Yaris 1.5 M/T
Altis 1.6 J M/T
Avanza 1.5 G M/T
Innova 2.0 J M/T

TOYOTA moving forward

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., 807-0707 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICUTAN PARAÑAQUE, 777-9500 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC., (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 / (088) 858-7770 / (08822) 737-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-0771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE, (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 / (02) 529-8116 sales direct / (02) 529-8132 sales fax TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8840 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC., 8973333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONGTAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, (045) 961-1188 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 717-0707 to 08 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

Firsts in the 2007 Car of the Year Awards

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE 4TH CAR OF THE YEAR (COTY) Philippines Awards program, which was held at the Rockwell Tent in Makati last Thursday, established quite a few firsts.

It was the first time that: a European brand won the big trophy. The 2007 Car of the Year, the Volvo C30 is a sports coup that aced the Luxury Subcompact category versus the BMW 120i and the Mercedes-Benz B160. What's more, the Swedish carmaker outshone its German rivals two more times when the Volvo S60 T5 won the Executive Car of the Year Award and the Volvo S80 2.5L topped the Luxury Car category.

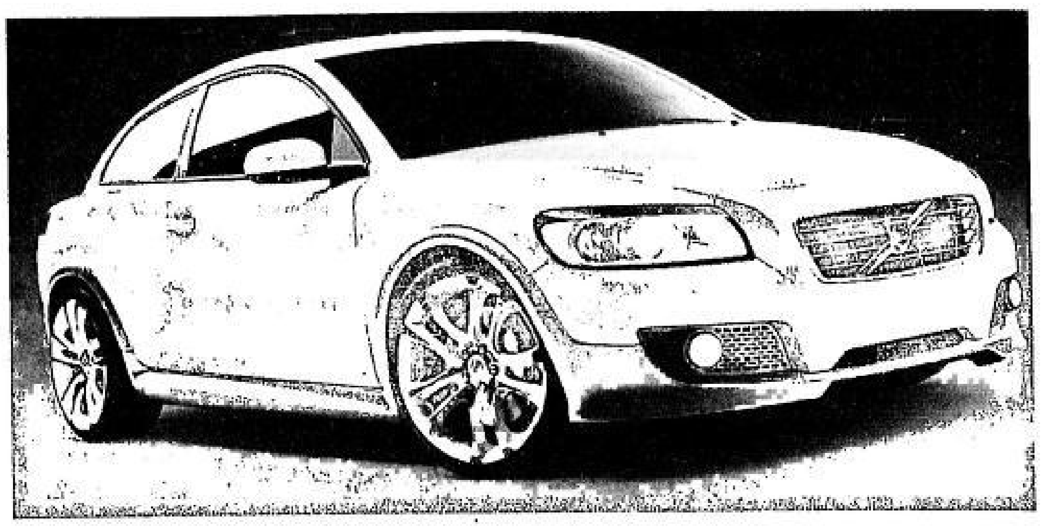
Swept

It was also the first time that a Korean brand—Kia—swept four category awards, besting Japanese brands. The Kia Picanto 1.1 DLX bagged the Basic Subcompact Car of the Year Award, the Kia Rio 1.4 sedan was adjudged the Executive Subcompact Car of the Year, the Kia Carens CRDi collected the Compact Van/Multipurpose Vehicle of the Year Award and the Kia Carnival LX 2.9 CRDi short wheelbase won the Executive Van/MPV of the Year trophy.

For the first time, the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), organizer of Coty, got a big business corporation to be the title sponsor, i.e. Petron Corp. Thus it is now officially known as the Petron 2007 Car of the Year Awards. The decision to get a title sponsor was made by Cagi 2007 president Ira Panganiban with the concurrence of his board: External VP Andy Sevilla, external vice president; Fernan Lao, internal VP and technical committee chair; and Jeff Reyes, treasurer.

Media practitioners

All the officers and members of Cagi, if you don't know it yet, are media practitioners as Cagi is a nonstock, nonprofit private organization of motoring journalists that conducts consumer-oriented tests of mass production motor vehicles annually to help consumers make an informed choice when buying a car and to recognize the progress of the auto industry in engineering, quality, design and safety features.

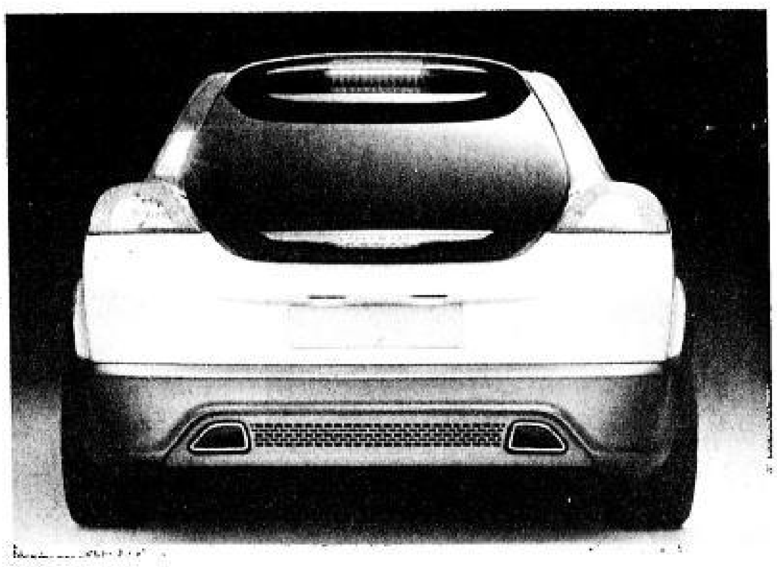


This time, the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) supported the 2007 Coty Awards not as a sponsor, but as Cagi's technical partner in testing the entries. After all, AAP is a nonprofit, nonstock organization, the national auto club that is the only Philippine affiliate of the FIA, the Paris-based body that governs motor sports worldwide including F1, the WRC and Le Mans. AAP motor sports committee chair Mandy Eduque and AAP director Dave Arcenas participated in some of the car testing sessions.

Categories

The number of categories was increased from 11 in the 3rd Coty to 23 after the Cagi executive board consulted the technical experts of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) on how to improve the Coty formula. Passenger cars now have nine categories: Basic Subcompact, Executive Subcompact, Luxury Subcompact, Midsize, Sports Car, Executive, Luxury and Ultra Luxury. Car-based utility vehicles enter four categories: 2WD Crossover/Wagon, 4WD Crossover/Wagon, Luxury Crossover/Wagon and Ultra-Luxury Crossover/Wagon.

Minivans were divided into four categories: Compact Van/Multipurpose Vehicle (MPV), Executive Van/MPV, Luxury Van/MPV and Ultra Luxury Van/MPV. Sport utility vehicles (SUVs) were also Compact, Executive, Luxury or Ultra Luxury. Pickup trucks have two categories: 2WD (4x2) and 4WD (4x4).



THE VOLVO C30 is the first European car to win the Car of the Year Philippines Award.

Chose

The car manufacturers themselves, not Cagi, chose which of their products would participate and in which category each would enter. The car manufacturers also took care of bringing the test units to the test venue.

Entries that did not win in their respective categories last time were allowed to try again. Previously, losing entries were not allowed to participate unless the motor vehicle in question had undergone major changes or upgrades in engineering, technology and/or safety features. A facelift—new headlights or taillights, a new grille, new bumpers—did not count.

87 entries

Eighty-seven cars and trucks were tested over a span of eight Saturdays from Aug. 25 to Oct. 13, 2007 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. The total number would have been 97 if the test units of 10 models had shown up.

The number of Special Awards was increased from four to 19. Supporters of Coty 2007 sponsored the awards. Thus, Toyota Motors Philippines won the AAP Best Road Safety Campaign Award, the Honda Jazz 1.3 won the Standard Insurance Best Value for Money Award, the Nissan Teana the Rockwell Land Best Interior Design Award, the Mercedes-Benz S350 the Bridgestone Most Comfortable Ride Award, the Mitsubishi Outlander the Bosch Best In-Car Entertainment Award, the Subaru Impreza WRX the Globe Media Dream Car Award and the Petron 2007 Car of the Year, the Volvo C30, also won the Concept One Sexiest Car Award.

So Coty 2007 was a year of firsts, setting the stage for a more exciting 2008.

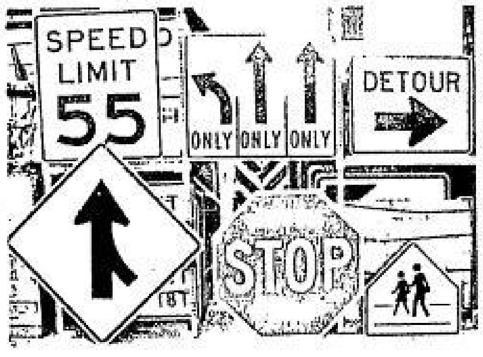
TRANSPORT TRIVIA

By Emman Cena

Of traffic violations and figures

LAST SUNDAY, THE INQUIRER HAD ON its front page a story tackling the behavior of Pinoy drivers. The story written by Tessa Salazar tried to answer the question: Have Pinoy drivers transformed into road bullies behind the wheel?

Look into the following figures of traffic violations gathered by the Land Transportation Office, the country's arm in transportation service. The agency makes sure the laws, rules and regulations are efficiently implemented across the country.



SOME of the traffic signs on the road

*Traffic violation	Number of cases recorded nationwide
· Violation of the RA 8750 or Seatbelt use act	154,984
· No certificate of registration/official receipt on hand	55,471
· Obstruction	47,468
· Prohibited parking	45,655
· Unregistered/invalid registration	42,665
· Colorum operation	34,906
· Driving in slippers/sleeveless shirt (PUVs)	32,020
Driving w/ delinquent/invalid suspended, ineffectual or revoked license	29,241
· Student driver without an accompanying licensed driver	28,232
· Driving without the license	26,485

* Annual figures as of January 2007

Down the wire

From page B2-4

ized racing vehicles that only look like commercially available models, so Gronholm's Ford Focus RS WRC 2007 and Loeb's Citroen C4 WRC fully maximize the power and grip allowed by the rules of the highest level of rallying. The rigors of rallying have also claimed each of these cars at least twice in the season, with Loeb having one more DNF to Gronholm's last two retirements. Neither car has displayed dominance over the last year.

In the end, it will likely boil down to sheer ability and want. But the odds are stacked against our retiring Finn. Even if Marcus Gronholm wins Wales Rally GB outright, Sebastien Loeb must have a disaster to lose the championship. There is no other way.

Even a tie of points would likely give Loeb the driver's plum as he has won more rallies outright this year. Marcus Gronholm finds himself the underdog in the strictest definition of terms. Who will I be cheering for during the Wales Rally GB from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2? I'm a sucker for the underdog, despite every bone in my body wanting to continue supporting Sebastien Loeb. It's just that kind of year. Lewis Hamilton will likely agree.

BMW's latest X5

From page B2-3

POWER and torque have also gone up across the new X5's model range.

driving pleasure one would have expected from a gasoline-fed vehicle despite the greater weight and higher center of gravity.

Farrales said that in contrast to sport utility vehicles or vehicles that are built for off-road driving with the possibility for on-road use, BMW considers the new X5 as sport activity vehicle, an entirely new concept in the luxury segment that offers off-road qualities and yet it displays enhanced dynamics and an even higher standard of all-round supremacy.

"The new X5 is the first SAV in the world available with Active Steering, AdaptiveDrive (antiroll stabilization and adaptive dampers) as well as it comes with a standard run flat safety tires. With the new X5, body roll is never an issue, nor are squat and dive under acceleration and braking," Farrales assured.

Motolite congratulates Ford for another successful launch!
MOTOLITE
EXCEL
GOLD
ENDURO
MOTOLITE
TRUSTED NA PANGMATAGALAN
FOCUS
FOCUS
Motolite proudly serves requirements of Ford
www.motolite.com
FOR FREE BATTERY DELIVERY
MOTOLITE EXPRESSHATID
AVAILABLE ONLY IN METRO MANILA, MONDAY 7AM TO 7PM
SATURDAY 7AM TO 5PM & SUNDAY 8AM TO 2PM
843-1111
NOW ACCEPTING MAJOR CREDIT CARDS. ANOTHER FIRST FROM THE LEADER

BMW's latest X5 redefines sports utility vehicle concept

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

IN THE TWO DAYS THIS WRITER spent driving the latest BMW X5, I was thrice handed different brochures of soon-to-open high-class communities in Tagaytay City, was given a thumbs up sign—a couple of times—by passing motorists and was even afforded the right-of-way in traffic in so many instances.

It's not every day that one gets such attention and this writer could easily attribute this to the new X5, which has a massive presence, something that commands respect on the road.

The one that BMW Philippines lent to this writer was the a five-seater (Executive) 3.0-liter turbodiesel variant.

At first glance, the new BMW X5 actually looks smaller than the model it replaces—thanks to Chris Bangle's design cues—but in reality, it's longer by 18.7 cm and wider by 6.8 cm.

New grille design

At the front, one would notice its wider kidney grilles, newly designed headlamps (with the trademark corona rings that also integrated daytime running lights) and lower grille flanked by two other openings (the left-hand side opening for the diesel variant allows airflow for the turbodiesel's intercooler).

At the rear, the new X5 has a stylish twin exhaust pipes integrated into the rear bumper.

But what's more interesting for this writer is the new X5 diesel engine.

According to Leana Farrales of BMW Philippines corporate communications, the new X5's 3-liter diesel engine weighs 25 kilos less than its predecessor, thanks to an all-new aluminum crankcase (remember that a lighter engine weight means a much lighter vehicle weight, which in turn uses less fuel).

Indeed, while the new X5's diesel variant is seconds slower in the 0 to 100 kph compared to its gasoline counterpart, the new diesel X5 could run 11.5 km per liter or a reduction of fuel consumption by 7 percent.

Massive torque

This writer also enjoyed the new diesel X5's massive torque it provided (520 Nm against its diesel variant's 475 Nm), which is just so addictive. This writer was able to enjoy short loads of it since the gear shifted as soon as the redline was reached.

Indeed, the new X5's six-speed automatic transmission is a fuel saver as it features a software that reduces reaction and shift times by up to 50 percent compared to a conventional automatic transmission.

The gear shift takes some getting used to (although this type of shifter is basically an adaptation of the shift stalk on BMW's 7-series) because it has no actual gear positions for you to shift into—one only has to move the shifter up and down and left and right.

In drive mode, one could push the shifter to the left to get it into sport mode where one could play with the vehicle's six gears.

Even the parking brake is activated by a button.

New experience

But what makes the new X5 stand out in the sports utility and crossover community is the way it performs, handles and holds the road. The new diesel X5 provides the kind of

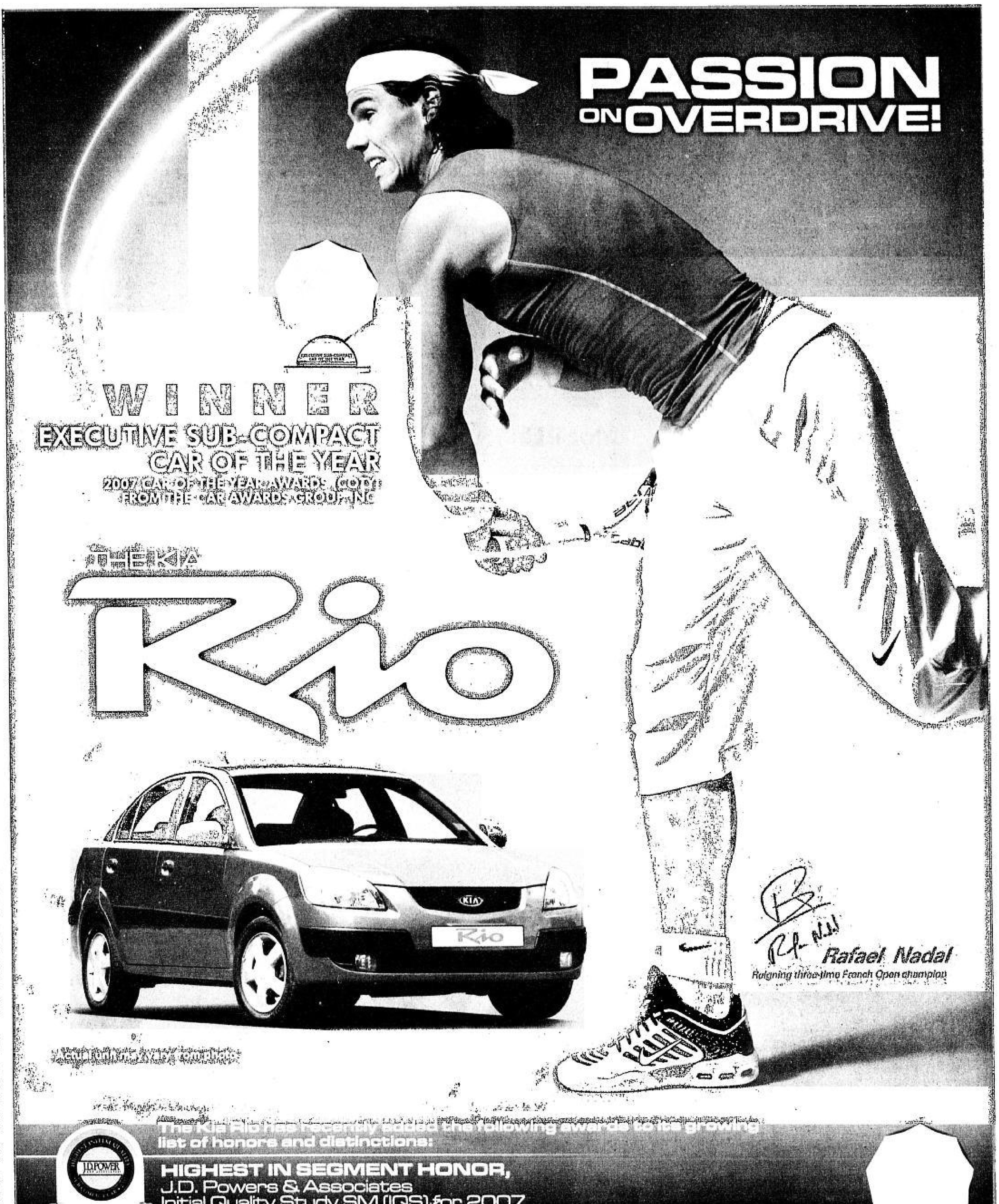
BMW'S/ B2-2

THE NEW X5's futuristic looking shifter

AS A SPORTS activity vehicle, the new BMW X5 represents a new approach to the concept of a traditional SUV.

WINDSHIELD
CRACK REPAIR
U.S. Pat.
Up to any Long. Guaranteed!
LTO APPROVED!
NOT REPLACEMENT! EMISSION CTR2
- RESTORES CLARITY 80-90%, STRENGTH 100%
- REMOVE GLASS SCRATCHES, ACID RAINS & SILICON BUILD-UP
- VEHICLE EMISSION TESTING - Php 350.00
- ACCREDITED & AUTHORIZED BY DTI/DOTC/LTO

CALL NOW BEFORE ITS TOO LATE!
MANILA MIDWEST #40 Kalayaan, Ave., Q.C. Tels.: 926-6829/435-6391
Nat'l. Rd. Bangiad, Taytay, Rizal Tels.: 286-2925/286-0362
Km. 16 Aguinaldo Hi-way, Talaba VII, Bacoor, Cavite
Tel.: (046) 970-2464 Cell# 0928-4050044 / 0921-5791303
Website: http://members.aol.com/hitecom
Bring this ad for P150 OFF except on Emission Test. Expiration date 12/31/07


PASSION ON OVERDRIVE!
EXECUTIVE SUB-COMPACT CAR OF THE YEAR
WINNER
EXECUTIVE SUB-COMPACT CAR OF THE YEAR
2007 CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS (COTY)
FROM THE CAR AWARDS GROUP, INC
THE KIA
Rio
KIA
Rio
Actual unit may vary from photo
Rafael Nadal
Reigning three-time French Open champion

The Kia Rio has recently added the following awards to its growing list of honors and distinctions:

HIGHEST IN SEGMENT HONOR,
J.D. Powers & Associates
Initial Quality Study SM (IQS) for 2007

2006 SUB-COMPACT CAR OF THE YEAR
Car of the Year (COTY) - Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI)

Other Citations & Recognitions:
- Ranked **Highest in Segment Honor** in J.D. Powers & Associates Initial Quality Study SM (IQS) for 2006
- **Winner, 'Autobest 2006'**.Voted by influential motoring writers from 12 Central & Eastern European countries as #1 for offering "great versatility"
- **Editor's Most Wanted** Edmonds.com Car Awards (USA)
- **Lowest Cost Car to Run**,State Motoring Clubs (Australia)

KIA AUTHORIZED DEALERS / SALES OUTLETS
METRO MANILA GREENHILLS Tel 744-4258•PASIG Tel 645-3855 loc. 23•ESGUERRA Tel. 411-1253•PASAY Tel.852-1552 to 58•QUIRINO AVENUE Tel.564-7872•SHAW Tel 534-4806•NOVALICHES Tel.453-6862•MARIKINA Tel.682-8580 to 81•ANTIPOLO Telefax 695-1457•BINONDO Tel.256-2037-38•LIBIS Tel. 706-0685•CUBAO Tel. 421-1719•MANDALUYONG Tel. 531-4631 to 36•NEW MANILA Tel 722-0932 to 34•MANILA BAY Tel. 556-1494-95•QUEZON AVE. Tel 743-6593•MAKATI Tel. 815-1178•TAYTAY Telefax 669-1723•SUCAT Tel 820-1542 LUZON BATANGAS Tel. (043)778-4214 to 16•STA. ROSA Telefax (049)544-0387•DASMARIÑAS Tels. (046)416-1242•BULACAN Tel. (044)692-0273•PAMPANGA Tel. (045)961-1485 to 86•PANGASINAN Tel. (075)517-3988•PALAWAN Tel. (084)433-4963•CABANATUAN Tel. (044)600-5232•LEGASPI Tel. (052)481-1533 VISAYAS ILOILO Tel. (033)338-1676•BACOLOD Tel. (034)434-6079•CEBU CITY Tel. (032)233-1386•MANDAUE CITY Tel. (032)344-3815•BOHOL Tel. (038)501-0119•DUMAGUETE Tel. (035)419-8388•ORMOC Tel. (053)561-6441•TACLOBAN Telefax (053)523-3413•SAN CARLOS CITY Tels (034)729-4536 MINDANAO BUTUAN Tel. (085)815-2689•OZAMIZ Tel. (0928)2337431•ZAMBOANGA Tel. (062)983-0769•ILIGAN Tels. (063)221-0574•CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel. (088)856-3557•DAVAO Tel. (082)234-0057 to 58•GENERAL SANTOS CITY Tels. (083)302-8888•DIPOLOG Tels. (0918)6087000

KIA MOTORS

Down the wire

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

IT IS JUST THAT KIND OF YEAR. Roughly about a month ago, the global television audience was treated to some of the most dramatic motor racing that the world has ever seen. You know what I'm talking about.

The plot lines were simple really. Young upstart attempts to take the top accolade at the pinnacle of world motor sport in his debut season. He fails at the final race of the season, needing just a mediocre finish to clinch all the glory and begin spinning his on racing fairy tale. Sad too is the fact that Lewis Hamilton has the next 10 years to win the Formula One World Championship. Life can really be unfair to a 22-year-old driver tagged to be the next poster boy for Formula One.

Yet a similar and equally significant battle rages on the special stages of the World Rally Championship. Without the fanfare and media circus of Formula One, this is a struggle that could pay itself out under the radars of the world media. That would be a crying shame.

Two of the giants of world rallying are poised to take the 2007 Drivers Championship and it looks like Rally Great Britain with its mixed surfaces of tarmac and gravel plus the unforgiving Welsh weather will be the deciding rally.

Up until mid October, 39-year-old Marcus Gronholm, a Finn and the latest incarnation of the cold-blooded, Nordic driving gods held a precarious four-point lead over his closest rival. It has been two rallies since, Rally Japan and Rally Ireland, and our brash and often rude Iceman hasn't scored a single point.

Exit strategy

Two consecutive retirements have allowed his nemesis and virtual antithesis, Sebastien Loeb, to take a six-point lead. Add to this the additional pressure that poor old Marcus has heaped upon his sometimes fiery head. Announcing retirement at season's end, Gronholm must have envisioned going out at the top of World Rallying, with a third championship, as his exit strategy. Wonderful when the opposition doesn't cooperate with your retirement plans, isn't it?

The other entity in the 2007 WRC drama is the aforementioned Frenchman Sebastien Loeb. The 33-year old is also one of the most successful rally men in history with three WRC driver's championships in his trophy cabinet. In stark contrast to Gronholm's clinical and generally unemotional driving style, Loeb takes to the special stages of the WRC with signature French flair and confidence.

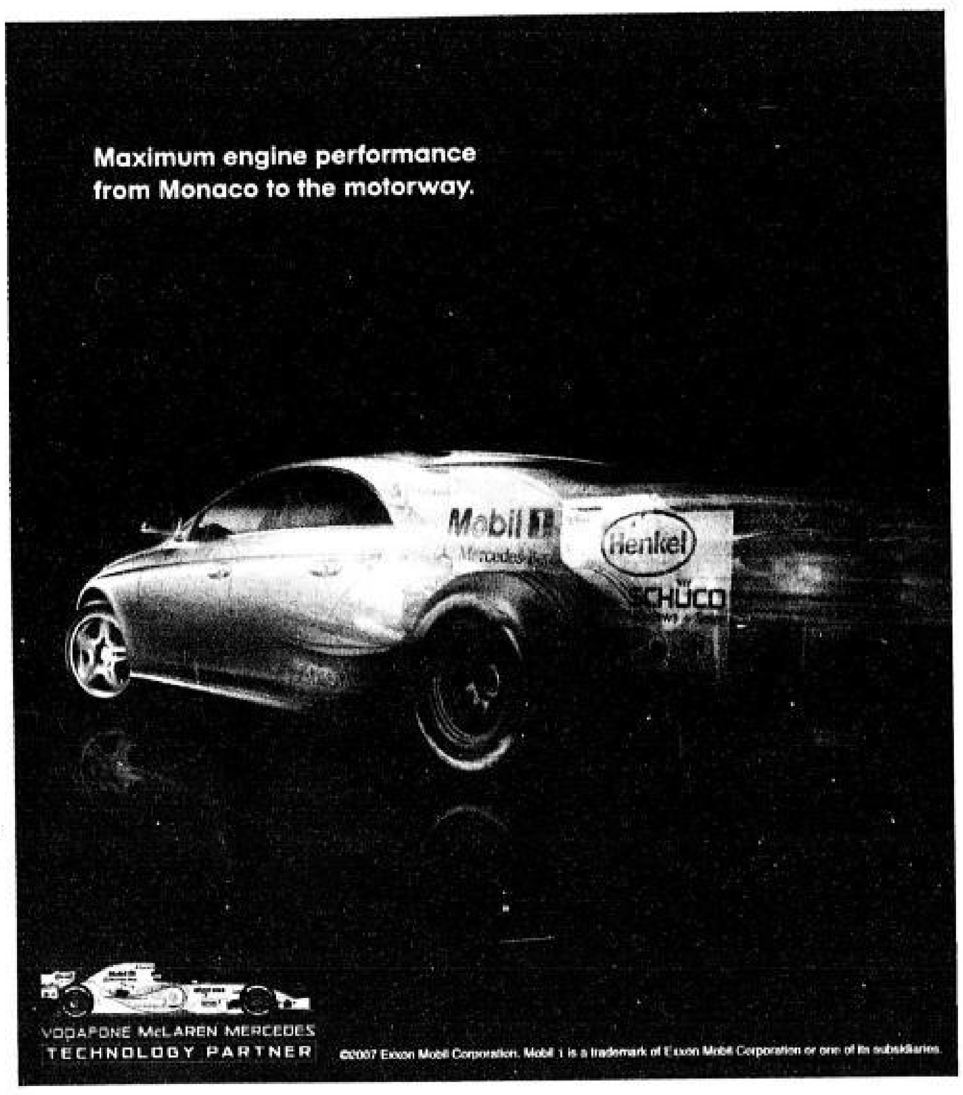
'The Philosopher'

Many times at the end of his timed runs, Sebastien has displayed wit and introspection often out of place in a race interview. Add to this the moments he's been captured on camera, thinking, brooding and generally staring into space during lulls in the rallying, it is easy to understand why many refer to Loeb as "The Philosopher."

Some opinions might pin down the results of the 2007 WRC Driver's Championship to equipment. Superior performance and bulletproof reliability are nice things to have in any WRC car but neither of our two would-be champions has the edge in those departments.

First of all, both the cars are practically built from the ground up as special-

DOWN/ B2-2


Maximum engine performance from Monaco to the motorway.
Mobil 1
Henkel
SCHÜCO
VODAFONE McLAREN MERCEDES
TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

©2007 Exxon Mobil Corporation. Mobil 1 is a trademark of Exxon Mobil Corporation or one of its subsidiaries.

From elite Grand Prix cars to street machines, Mobil 1 technology maximizes performance and gives advanced protection against extreme heat and stress.

FREE Mobil 1 trolley backpack with every purchase of 4 liters of Mobil 1. Promotion period is from 1 Oct 2007 to 30 Nov 2007. Hurry down now!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4360 Series of 2007.

Luzon – HH Asia 7724322
C/E Visayas – North Trend Mktg (032) 2318815
West Visayas – F& E Ent (033) 3350513
N/S Mindanao – Kupler Ind (082) 2344496
W/E Mindanao – Dadiangas Car (083) 5535338

Mobil 1

Parts from PHILIPS
27 MONTHS WARRANTY
XENONWORX
QUALITY PROOF

XENONWORX
HIGH INTENSITY DISCHARGE LAMPS

Benefits:
- Low Power Consumption
- At least 3x Longer Life than Ordinary bulbs
- Reduces Costly Downtime
- Increases Safety during Night Driving
- Water Resistant

Most reasonably priced based on Warranty Cost per Month!

Certificate From PHILIPS

HID XENON BULBS
WIDEST CHOICE OF UNIQUE COLOR TEMPERATURES:

COLOR TEMPERATURE:	COLOR:
3000K	AMBER YELLOW
4300K	RAINBOW YELLOW
5000K	MILD YELLOW
6000K	DAYLITE WHITE
8000K	ZIRCONIUM WHITE
10000K	SAPPHIRE BLUE
12000K	TURQUOISE BLUE
14000K	AMETHYST BLUE
16000K	TOPAZ PINK
18000K	EMERALD LITE GREEN
25000K	TANZANITE LITE BLUE

(ONE PRICE FOR ALL COLOR TEMPERATURES)

WATER RESISTANT! As seen in a demo where a bulb set was submerged in an aquarium during the 1st CAMPI Auto Show at the World Trade Center & Manila Auto Salon Exhibit 2007 at the SMX Convention Center

10R-022827

Available for all American, European, Korean, and Japanese cars.

www.xenonworx.com

FOR DEALERSHIP INQUIRIES, PLS. CONTACT: SALES DEPT. 376-2836; 376-2837 376-4661 • (TRUNKLINE) 376-3838 • Fax (632) 376-3213 • E-mail: mktg@primal.com.ph

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE
CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA
YOU WON'T LOOK ANYWHERE ELSE.
CHEVROLET CAPTIVA
Tiptronic System
Headlamp Leveling
Dual Airbag
6-in-dash CD/MP3 radio player
Rain Sensor Wipers
Anti-Lock Brake System

From whichever angle you look, the Captiva is designed to impress.

Available in:
4x2 and 4x4 2.4L DOHC gasoline engine
4x2 and 4x4 2.0L CRDI with Turbo Intercooler diesel engine

visit www.chevrolet.com.ph

Test drive today at your nearest Chevrolet dealer: MAKATI 894-1976, 867-8183 to 87 • QUEZON AVENUE 374-1250 TO 59 • SHAW 535-4944, 533-6349, 533-8375, 533-1263 • PASIG 672-1612 to 14, 672-1486 • ALABANG 771-1206 to 09 • NORTH EDSA 374-9992 to 97, 374-9963 • MANILA 564-0129 CEBU (032) 234-0426 to 29 • PAMPANGA (045) 963-3333, (045) 860-2000 • DAVAO (082) 300-7777, (082) 235-3811 • DAGUPAN (075) 523-7777, (075) 523-1835, (075) 515-5577 • ILOILO (033) 3374540 • BACOLOD (034) 708-2489 • LAGUNA (632) 6992458, (046) 4301606

WARRANTY 3 YEARS
(WHICHEVER COMES FIRST)

CHEVROLET 24hr. ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
(WITHIN WARRANTY PERIOD)
751-CHEV (2438)

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE CENTER
1800-1888-4646

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

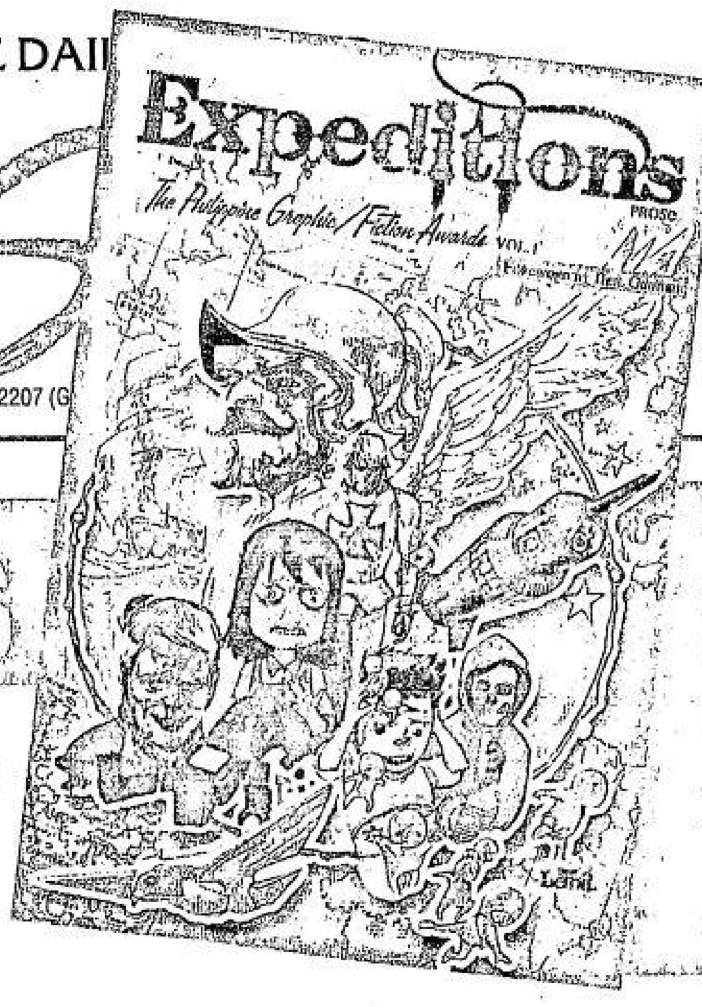
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (G

Zap unwanted hair on your LEGS with LaserLight!

Call Facial Care at 892-SKIN (7546)

Marvelous maiden voyage



Dynamic and distinctive styles lead the way as Fully Booked publishes the inaugural winners of its Graphic/Fiction contest

By Ruel S. De Vera

THERE IS A FINE TRADITION of realistic fiction in Filipino literature," Neil Gaiman explains. "We wanted to encourage unrealistic fiction." Those words, appearing in "The Sandman" author's Foreword, exemplify the dark heart, and considerable soul of "Expeditions: The Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards Vol. 1—Comics" (Fully Booked, 2007, 110 pages) and "Expeditions: The Philippine Graphic Fiction Awards Vol. 1—Prose" (Fully Booked, 2007, 190 pages). And any reader will recall that Gaiman had no idea what awaited him in the Philippines: "What I knew of the Philippines could have been written on the wing of a small butterfly."

Boasting a terrific cover by "New Avengers" artist Leinil Francis Yu and helped by a healthy heaping of horror, these books shine with potent talents.

Seeking out new talent in both fiction and comic-book work, the awards were first handed out last year and these books feature the winners in the two categories as well as the honorable mentions. The winners—and, by extension, the selections in these collections—were chosen by the formidable judges: Gregorio Brillantes, Peque Gallaga and Tony Perez for Prose; Arnold Arre, Dean Francis Alfar and Fully Booked's Jaime Daez for Comics.

The stories in the Prose volume are just superlative, gathering the chosen stories of science fiction, fantasy or horror. While some may be abrupt or uneven, all are well-written and imaginative, polished with a quality echoing the words of Ian Casocot, one of the first-prize winners in his story "A Strange Map of Time." He writes: "There was no vocabulary to seize possession of the sudden unknown that engulfed him." Casocot's tale is a time-lost meditation on words and destiny, employing folkloric elements from the Negros islands.

The other first-prize winner is Michael A.R. Co's "The God Equation," a gripping, gritty and tense account revolving around an actual angel sent to eliminate a Filipino mathematician who may have found proof of God's existence in an equation.

The second-prize winner, "The Great Philippine Space Mission" by Philbert Ortiz Dy, is a rousing romp, with the Earth in danger and the only people who can save everyone is a Filipino scientist and Kris Aquino, *the* Kris Aquino.

See, Eric Bautista has invented a metaphysical engine, powered by *chismis* (gossip), hence, Aquino becomes the most potent source of energy in the world. "Atha" by Michaela Atienza, a plaintive reflection on the wages of one man's madness and genius, is the third-prize winner.

Like the winning pieces, the other stories mix Filipino and foreign elements with aplomb and are surprisingly contemporary. Authored by Kim Marquez, Ma. Cecilia Estrada, Yvette Natalie Tan, Ma. Ana Micaela G. Chua and Wincy Ong, they feature everything from a *manananggal* who wants to become an *artista* to white cockroaches with a secret.

Dark comics

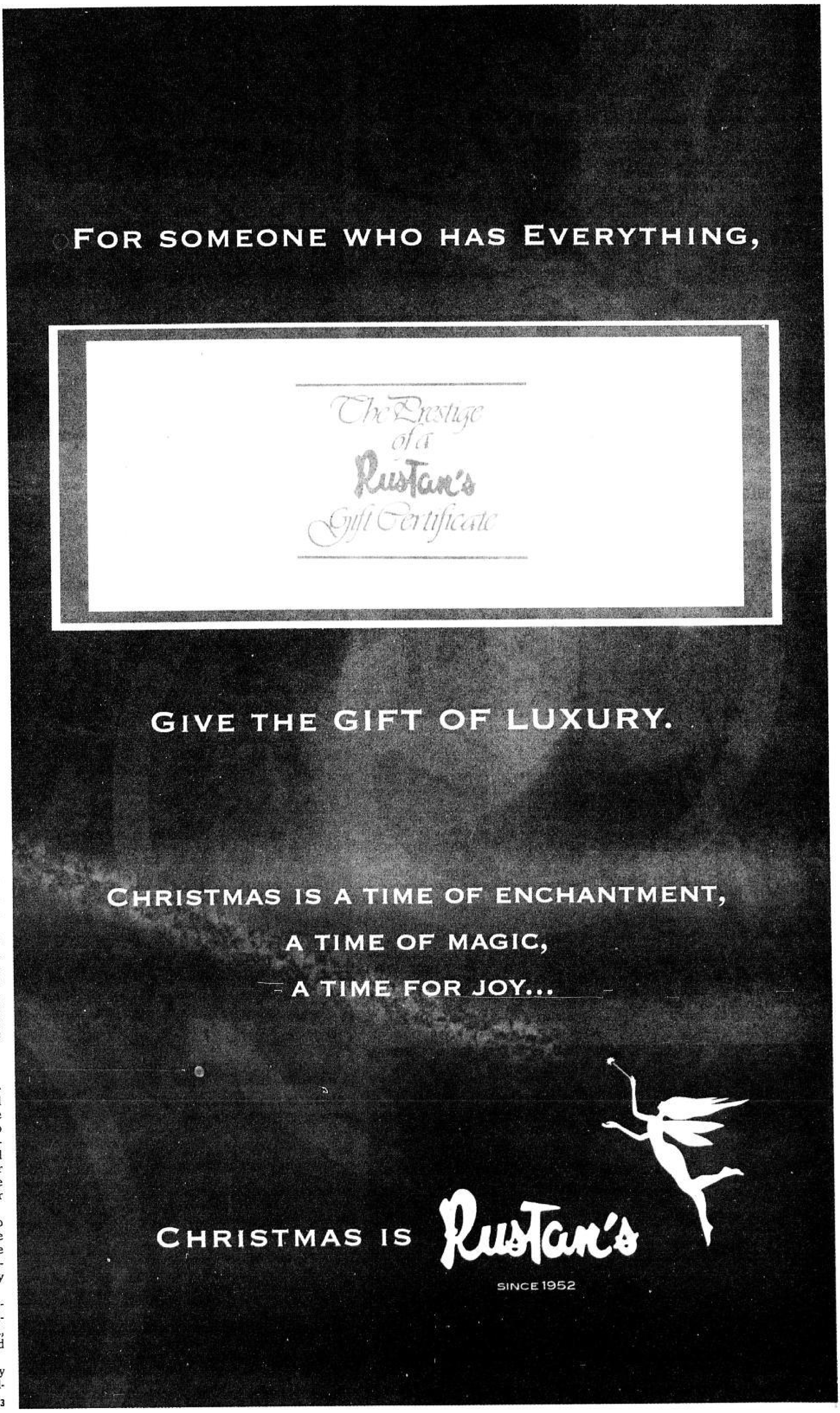
If anything, the Comics volume is actually darker than its Prose sibling and is laced with more horror content. The pieces have finishes that range from professional to spotty, and their styles run from distinctively innovative to somewhat derivative, all with a dream-like texture that can be either sweet or nightmarish. Though the 12-page pieces are in black-and-white, the taller and wider format evens it out.

Chances are, readers would have yet to read anything like the deserving first-prize winner, "The Sad, Mad, Incredible But True Adventures of Hika Girl" by Clara Lala Gallardo and Maria Gallardo, a bedtime story done up in Uglydoll finery.

Mind-blowing would be the best description for the second-prize winner, the wordless "Splat!" by Manuel "Manix" Abrera, like a spot cartoon on speed, kinetic and witty.

The two third-prize winners are a study in extremes. Like a cautionary tale for chil-

MARVELOUS/ C3


FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS EVERYTHING,
The Prestige of a Rustan's Gift Certificate
GIVE THE GIFT OF LUXURY.
CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF ENCHANTMENT,
A TIME OF MAGIC,
A TIME FOR JOY...
CHRISTMAS IS Rustan's
SINCE 1952

2bU! Exclusive

Ready, set, Race!

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

THE LONG WAIT IS OVER FOR ALL reality TV fans out there. "The Amazing Race Asia" Season 2 premieres tomorrow night, Nov. 22, on action and adventure channel AXN at 9 p.m.

With more adrenalin-pumping challenges, heated action, amazing destinations as pitstops and a lot of conflict and spicy drama, the show promises to be a weekly addiction for all couch potatoes.

"There's more driving in new environments, long-haul flights to catch, and even more challenging tasks in the new race," reveals Allan Wu, the show's hot host. "Tempers flared not only with me but with other contestants as well." He even adds that a fight almost broke out between him and a contestant!

Needless to say, this season's 10 teams—two each from the Philippines, Hong Kong and Malaysia, and one each from Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Japan—play a huge role in making the show a must-watch. For the first time in The Amazing Race history, there is a hearing-impaired contestant, Adrian Yap of Singapore. The first-ever Japanese team also debuts this exciting season.

For Filipinos, one great reason to stay tuned is to find out how well familiar faces Marc Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez do in the competition. With other Philippine teams being booted out early in the previous season, everyone is curious whether Marc and Rovilson will suffer the same fate or win the US$100,000 cash prize.

If those aren't enough for you to tune in, the fact that the show has a lot of stunning lookers should get you hooked!

First episode sneak peek

In "The Amazing Race Asia" Season 2 pilot tomorrow night, host Allan Wu assembles all the 10 teams by the Singapore River for the adventure of a lifetime. They are shown the highs of Singapore when they are brought to one of the Republic's famous hills and then to the top of the nation's wealthiest buildings.

This is good news for the Singapore team composed of gym buddies Collin and Adrian. However, conflict ensues early on when the Singaporeans do something that makes Rovilson say, "Those guys are monsters. Just because he has a hearing impairment means nothing!"

For the teams' first task, they have to scramble for taxis—a special one assigned for each team—which makes hailing a cab in Singapore extra difficult, especially for two teams who get stuck searching for their cabs while the others zip to the next location.

Next, the teams are thrown a curveball and made to choose between climbing up and down 45 stories of stairs or crossing over one tall building to another, dangling 181 meters off the ground. In a race where every second counts, picking the crossover challenge is the better time-saving idea, and it expectedly induces some panic attacks from some contestants.

After a detour, the teams leave Singapore and travel over 2,000 kilometers across the seas to the next destination: a city in the Philippines. The two Philippine teams are naturally ecstatic; one even breaks out into a dance!

At the next city, teams have the luxury of digging into one of the nation's most infamous delicacies: the *balut*. While several racers are famished enough to eat anything, not too many of the racers are able to consume the *balut*, after being told what it is. One takes a bite but spits it all out, while another courageously finishes it but regurgitates it before long.

And then there's the mad race to the pitstop, which is always thrilling to watch. Witness how one team gets out of their vehicle to push it when the slope turns out too steep, while the others decide to ditch their rides and just rely on their feet. Find out what it takes to finish first: lightning speed, great strength or a combination of good looks and a little brain power.

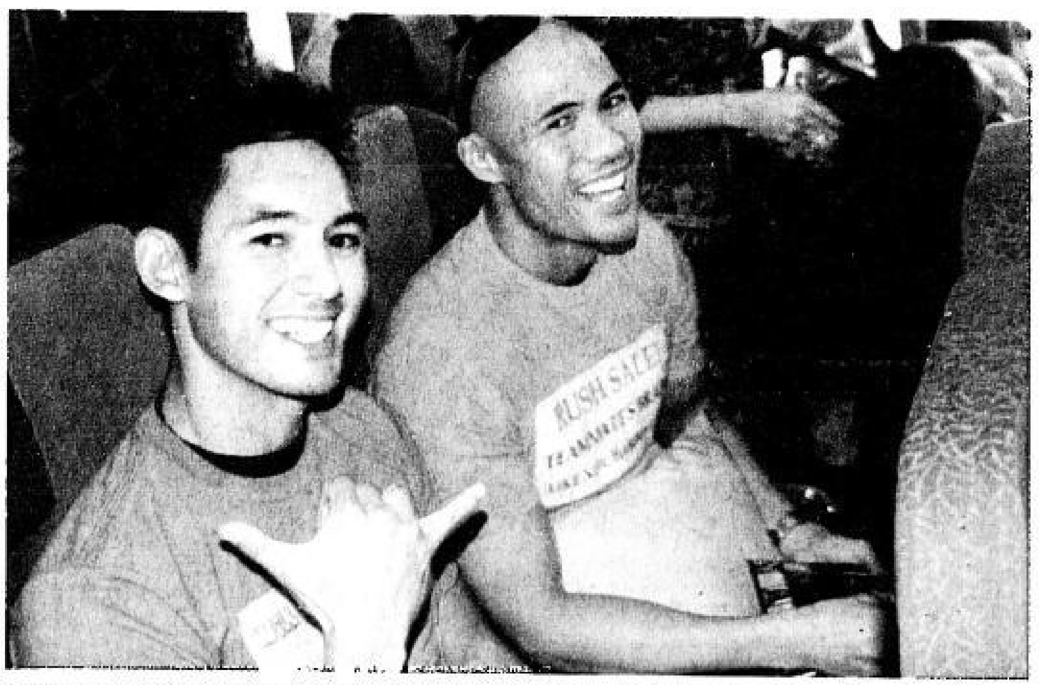
Catch "The Amazing Race" Asia 2 on AXN tomorrow at 9 p.m.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com

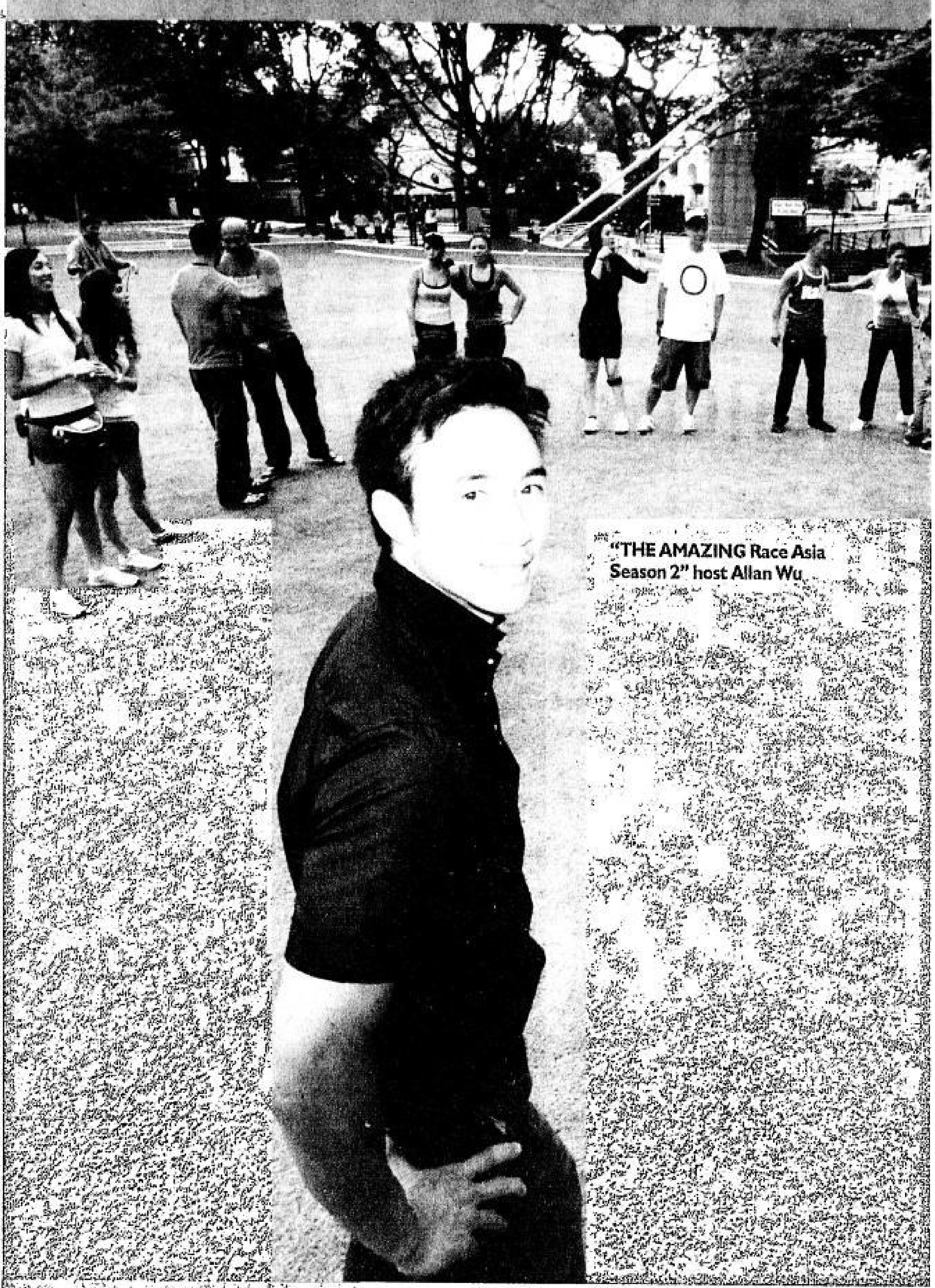
EDWIN Lo of Hong Kong boldly gives the *balut* a try.

NATASHA Monks and Paula Taylor from Thailand

CAVITE-BASED husband and wife Henry and Trinidad Reed make up the other Philippine team.



MARC Nelson and Rovilson Fernandez: great looks, awesome bods, witty and wonderful sense of humor



"THE AMAZING Race Asia Season 2" host Allan Wu

"The Amazing Race Asia" Season 2 premieres tomorrow night, 9 p.m. on the AXN channel!

CONTESTANTS' backpacks waiting to be picked up for the start of the race

CONTESTANTS with acrophobia (fear of heights) are brought to one of Singapore's famous hills and then to the top of the nation's skyscrapers.

AT A SHOW in Denver

Learning the world of life in just 12 months

By Hanna Fernando-Pacua
2bU! Contributor

FOR THE PAST FOUR MONTHS I have had the rare privilege to travel to seven countries across three continents with 67 of the most dedicated people I had ever met.

Along the way I have been able to see unusual landscapes, walk across historical landmarks, learn about different cultures, and dialogue about past and present world issues.

I have met people from all walks of life, spoke their language (or at least attempted to!), heard their stories, ate their food, lived with their dogs (I am afraid of dogs), slept in their homes.

I have painted houses, moved furniture, pulled weeds and scrubbed floors. I have sung and danced in the heat, in the cold, in the rain, on the dirt, and under the stars. I have been constantly faced with challenges but I have come out of them unscathed, a more mature person.

No, I am not part of "The Amazing Race," but I am in something similar. Up With People is an extraordinary youth global education program that takes participants on a hands-on learning journey spreading peace and understanding around the world.

All throughout the program, we were continuously reminded to "step out of our comfort zones"—because nothing extraordinary happens until you do something extraordinary.

Each group in Up With People is called a "Cast." At this very moment, there are two casts traveling the globe, Cast B and Cast C with two different itineraries but similar messages.

I am in Cast B 2007 and we have moved across from the USA (Colorado-Arizona-California-Oregon-Nevada) to Europe (Milan, Italy-Switzerland-Germany-The Netherlands-Belgium) and now we will spend a whole month in the Philippines.

The program aims to visit a new developing country each year and this is the first time that it will go to the Philippines. Being the only Filipina in the cast AND being the first Filipino traveling with the program has been both a great honor and a challenge for me. I feel a great sense of responsibility making everyone's stay in our country the best that it can be.

Our lives in one suitcase

A very evident challenge for most of the members of the cast is living within our one-suitcase limit. The 20-kilo suitcase should be able to hold business clothes (for important functions), work clothes (for manual labor work), casual clothes (for everyday use), fitness clothes (for rehearsal use) and a show costume. Not to mention appropriate shoes and accessories, show makeup, journals and technological gadgets, plus souvenirs and gifts collected along the way. The suitcase defines who we are for the whole trip, it is our home and our lives!

> Up With People is an extraordinary youth global education program that takes participants on a hands-on learning journey spreading peace and understanding around the world

Two of the top things I learned in Up With People are communicating and working with people with different beliefs and backgrounds.

Cast B 2007 is composed of students from 19 different countries—the United States, Germany, Romania, Japan, Uganda, Brazil, Venezuela, Macedonia, to name a few.

Each individual carries his or her unique traits, cultures and values from their home countries. In such a diverse group, people have different ways of doing things and opinion clashes are unavoidable.

Up With People has made us see beyond these differences. We have had workshops on stereotypes, respect, teamwork, communication and listening. Students are also given opportunities to do presentations about their respective country's culture. We have long learned to embrace and value the diversity of the group and work with each other harmoniously.

Global education

Our cast has traveled to big cities and small towns and each one has its own unique charm and mystery. We visit towns and see beyond its surface, such as Las Vegas, Nevada, which is more than a gambling capital, but also a city where vibrant communities thrive and where talented students get the best high-school education.

I have also learned how lives changed with the coming down of the Berlin Wall between West and East Germany.

There was always something surprising and unexpected as we traveled on the road. One time, we had an activity about how much each person affects the environment with the amount of trash we generate. We were individually made to carry around our own garbage in big paper bags throughout the week! The lesson opened my eyes on how we should be conscious of our waste generation.

In order to take learning a bit deeper, we all stay in host families in each area we visit. This allows us to really live the way the locals live and to learn their thoughts on local issues.

It was fun discussing immigration with my host mom in San Diego, California (close to the US-Mexico border), and tasting my first ever Prickly Pear Cactus with my host dad in Tucson, Arizona.

I learned all about coffee, history, and architecture from my host family in Italy and talked about discrimination in the Netherlands. As you can see, we break down all four walls of the classroom and learn on the road.

Volunteers

In each city we visit, we partner with local nonprofit groups and work with local volunteers in several projects benefiting the community.

I will never forget a series of school projects that we did in the US called "Stand for Peace." We visited several classrooms and did two-hour peace and diversity workshops with the kids and taught them how they can make their home, school and community a better place by doing little things.

SHARING a message of unity and encouragement

It was amazing how much they learned and understood that they can make a difference through picking up trash or discouraging bullying in school.

Another project that touched me was a food-giving program for the unemployed in a city in Oregon. Poverty in America may seem "rich" as compared to the poverty in the Philippines, but I guess the suffering is the same.

It was a very emotional moment for me when I met a Filipino family standing in line to receive the donated food. It was a testament that following the American dream is not all glitz and glamour after all—they probably have relatives back home who are waiting for *balikbayan* boxes of "Stateside" products when they couldn't even afford to support themselves in America.

We not only create impact through community service, but we also hope to spread the message of peace and encouragement through the Up With People Show, which is a collection of songs and dances from all over the world. The show's proceeds go to an identified local beneficiary.

Up With People is all about personality and flexibility. There are no auditions required to be in the cast, just as long as one shows his or her willingness to learn.

I was close to tears during our first few days of dance rehearsals, but the secret is to never give up. I have performed in more than 10 shows and I am so proud of myself! Talk about stepping out of my comfort zone!

Cast B 2007 is now in the Philippines for a month of community service and culture immersion. I feel so proud and happy that these people I have grown so close to these past four months are sharing themselves to our country.

With community projects such as GK, Habitat for Humanity, Virlanie and Kaibigan, among many others, Cast B's tour will end Dec. 10. From here, everyone goes back to his or her home country.

But our race to change the world will never be over. Within each of us is a silent promise to continue working to make a positive impact in our own little spaces.

No, we may not have a million dollars in the finish line, but we win something even better. We gain a spirit of understanding across cultures and that drive to do something more! I guess this is the best prize of all.

Visit www.upwithpeople.org

Bringing people closer

UP WITH PEOPLE, AN INTERNATIONAL nonprofit organization based in the United States, seeks to build bridges of understanding among people of different race, culture and background.

For over 40 years, UWP has been traveling across the globe and quietly working on creating a world of difference in each barrio, town, city and continent it has visited.

Participants of UWP have already visited 3,600 communities in 65 countries, have stayed with more than 500,000 host families, and have provided over three million hours of community service.

"We are here to bring people from different cultures, background and languages together and have them interact and collaborate with each other while working toward a shared purpose," says Luis Petzhold, UWP community relations coordinator. "The organization exists to transmit a message that is positive and also act as a positive role model to people around the world that countries and cultures can work together despite different beliefs, values, and cultures."

Up With People is a global education program for young adults ages 18-29. It is a six-month program that offers a combination of leadership and life skills, international travel, a multi-national group of participants, community service and impact, host-family living, the performing arts, and intercultural learning. The Up With People curriculum combines the theoretical study of leadership and intercultural communication with hands-on learning.

The young adults from 20 countries travel together to three continents, and often to more than six countries. One geographical region of the program is focused on an emerging country. Participants typically stay one week in each city to conduct community service, engage in leadership training, and produce and perform in a professionally made international show that highlights its sponsors, local charities and nonprofit organizations. The proceeds from the show are usually given to a local charity.

On Nov. 13-Dec. 10, UWP's 68 international volunteers will be visiting the Philippines to conduct a series of immersion and community-service programs in its target communities.

UWP will be working with Gawad Kalinga, Habitat for Humanity, Virlanie Foundation, Kaibigan Ermita Outreach Foundation Inc., Philippine Association for Citizens with Developmental and Learning Disabilities Inc., Ortigas Foundation Inc., Assumption School, Kythe, Erda Tech Foundation, Makabata School Foundation Inc., and the Rotary Clubs in Valenzuela.

Zest-O Corp. and RC Cola will sponsor the building of houses by Habitat and Gawad Kalinga.

The activities will culminate in two shows featuring the UWP cast at the Meralco Theater on Dec. 1 and 2.

Marvelous

From page C1

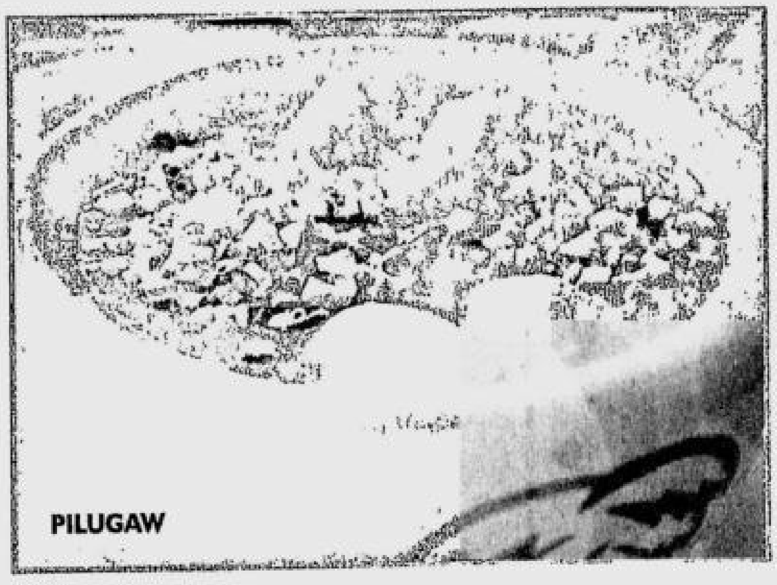
dren and their toys, "Dusk" by Rommel Joson is a moody, creepy tale of shadows while "Defiant: The Battle of Mactan" by Juan Paolo Ferrer and Chester Ocampo is a vividly animé-flavored, action-oriented and heavily fictionalized take on Magellan's last stand.

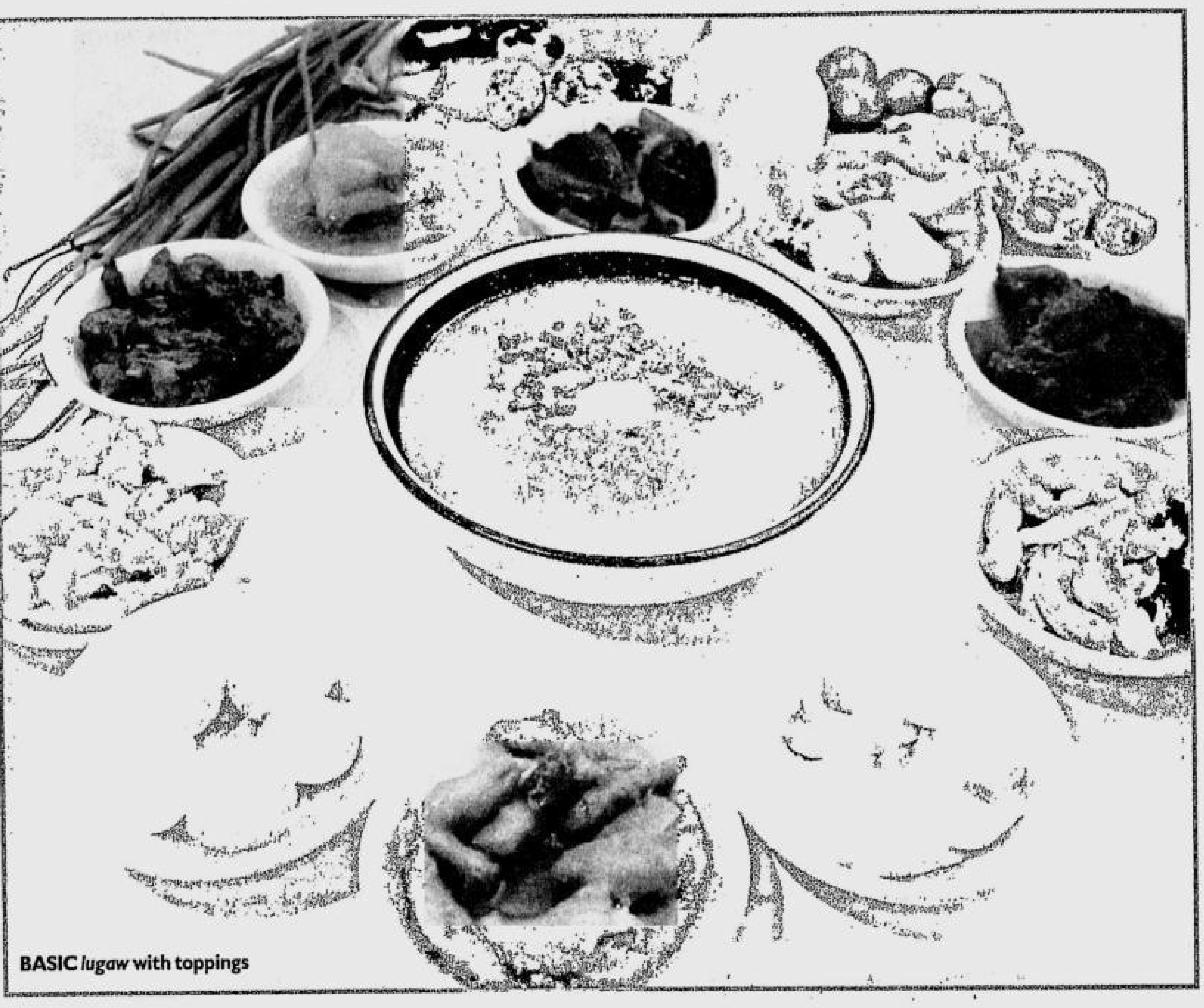
Pungently seasoned with strong Filipino flavor, the other pieces, by Vergel Nino A. Vergara, Benjor Catindig, Joonee Garcia, Anna Pallon, Adele Raya, Frances Alcaraz, Alvin B. Yapan, Leonard John C. Banaag and Avid Liongoren, uncover prophecies fulfilled and promises kept in the twilight corners.

Gaiman has thrown his support behind this competition and, with the second iteration kicking off this month, it becomes Neil Gaiman's gift that keeps giving, a yearly habit of celebrating talent and imagination, whether you are a fan of genre stories or not.

Whether the words and images bow to your particular taste or not, whether they are miracle drug or mere placebo to you, whether it is the Escape key or the Enter key, there is no denying how both volumes of "Expeditions" are a testament to the remarkable promise and power of Filipino creativity in fiction and comics, the hurricane of words and images birthed from the fierce flapping of an unleashed butterfly's wings.

Both books are available in hardcover and paperback; they will be launched on Nov. 25, 3 p.m., at the Fully Booked High Street courtyard in Bonifacio High Street, Taguig. The launch coincides with the awarding of the winners of the 2nd Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards.


PILUGAW


BASIC *lugaw* with toppings

SECRET MANILA

'Lugaw' overload

OKOY

By Pam Pastor

NOONTIME SHOW FANS know Lugawan Republic—the place and its food have been repeatedly plugged by Eat Bulaga mainstays.

Night owls know Lugawan Republic—the place is open 24 hours, perfect for those late-night cravings.

We know Lugawan Republic because it's our secret place for great *chicharon* and what we call the "orange *lugaw*."

The orange lugaw is actually Pilugaw, Lugawan Republic's specialty. Described in their menu as "*Malagkit at sotanghon, goto, manok*, black mushroom, toasted garlic, *sibuyas na mura, atbp.*," a steaming bowl of Pilugaw is only P95.

People who enjoy spicy food like Goto Hell, an original recipe of owner Gladys Guevarra. She describes the dish as "lugaw with a taste of callos."

People who like their lugaw to be a little more simple can order the Basic Lugaw (P60). A wide variety of toppings are available—from quail eggs and *litid* to chicken *adobo* and century egg.

Lugawan Republic also serves other steaming bowls of goodness such as Vegetarian Lugaw, Chinese Congee and Japanese Okayu.

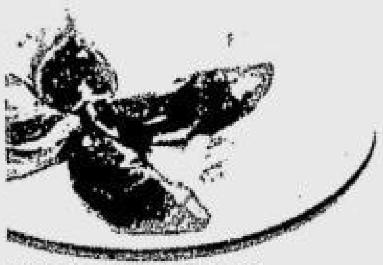
But food lovers don't just go to Lugawan Republic for the *lugaw*. It also serves dim sum and rice meals (the Fish Fillet with Tofu is a must-order).

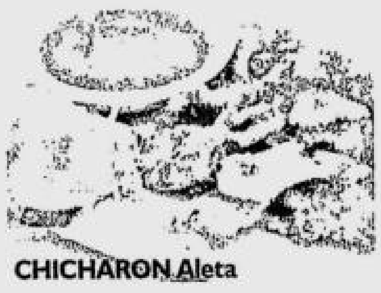
Other specialties include Calamares, Chicken Fingers, Chuch Okoy, Crispy Tofu, Dinuguan at Puto, Fish and Chips, Lumpiang Ubod and Pancit Bihon.

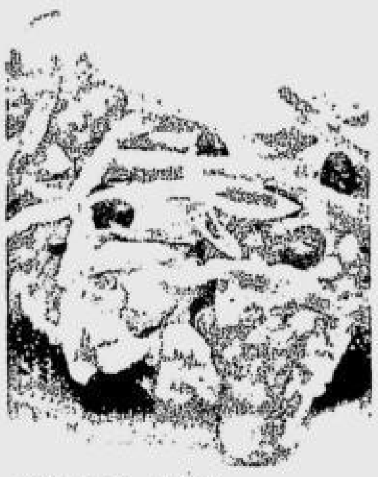
Must-tries include the Chicharon Aleta (like bacon, only thicker and crispier) and the Crispy Tokwa't Baboy.

Lugawan Republic is at Timog Ave. Quezon City. Its Metrowalk branch will open on Nov. 23.

Lugawan Republic is a 24-hour stop for great comfort food

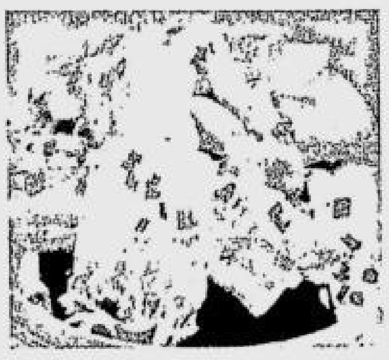

CENTURY Egg Congee

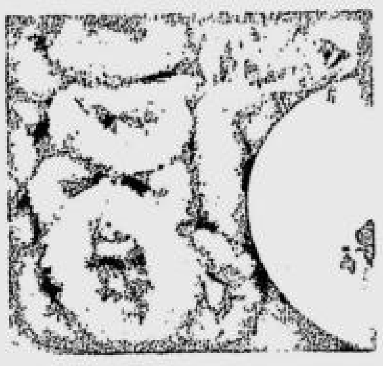

CHICHARON Aleta

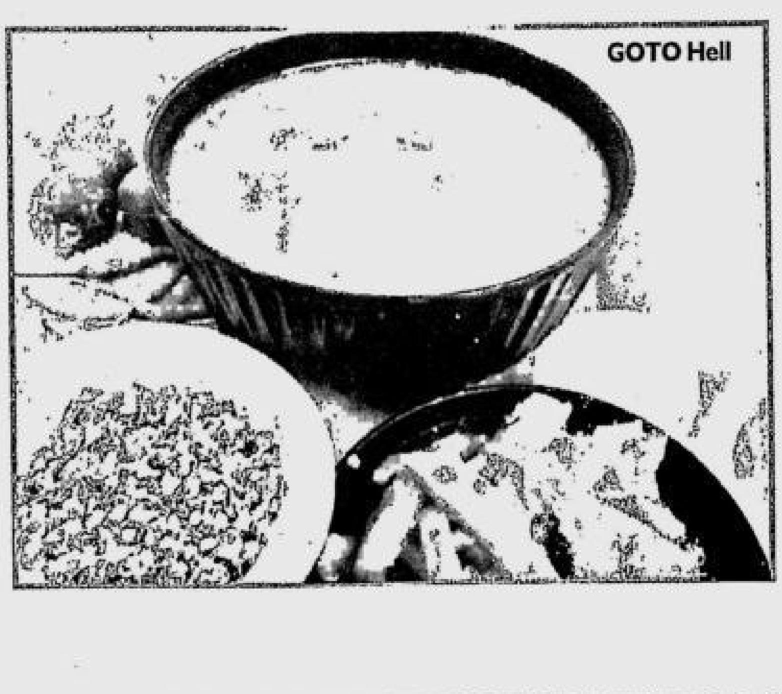

FISH Fillet with Tofu

SABA Con Hielo

THREE Kinds of Mushroom Congee


SEAFOOD Roll


CALAMARES


GOTO Hell

Once again, shopping at the malls can win you a trip to Singapore!

'Tis the season for shopping and winning a free trip to Singapore! Bring your family and friends to the malls on the weekends of November and join the Singapore Tourism Board Philippines' fun games for cool prizes and giveaways. Who knows, your next shopping spree may be your ticket to a *Uniquely Singapore* vacation.

Visit us at the following malls on the specified dates:

The Podium (the Lounge) - Nov. 10-11
Greenhills Promenade & Greenhills Theatre Mall (Promenade Food Court) - Nov. 17-18
Festival Supermall (Carousel Area) - Nov. 24-25

UNIQUELY Singapore
visitsingapore.com

[illegible]

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

TELEPHONE
TELEPHONE

Welcome back, Westlife!

By Mark Bonifacio
2bU! Correspondent

The group's new album brings back the trademark pop sound its fans have always loved

"THE PHILIPPINES IS FULL OF great people. A lot of nurses in Dublin are actually from the Philippines. Very nice and friendly people," Westlife member Nicky Byrne said when asked of his experience in the country (the last time a year ago for a concert).

INQUIRER 2bU! recently had a phone chat with one-fourth of one of the world's most successful boybands. What used to be a quintet (until Bryan McFadden left the group in 2004) has been in the scene for nine years and still going strong.

"I think we share a bond. But we do have our arguments sometimes. We believe in ourselves. We got this because of hard work. We believe we got something good when we sing together. We're very happy with that," Byrne said.

In the United Kingdom alone, Westlife has scored eight multi-platinum albums and a record-breaking 14 No. 1 hits (behind only Elvis and The Beatles), has snagged Brit and MTV awards and holds the record for most concerts (23) at the prestigious Wembley Arena.

OVER 36 million records sold

This year, the group is back with its ninth album, "Back Home."

Why the title? Byrne explained: "One was that we felt we were back home doing great original pop songs.

Two, we had so much time off this year that we felt that we were all back home. We planned to spend a lot of time this year back home touring. We usually spend a lot of time abroad, but this year and until next year, we'll plan for a big concert in Dublin to mark our 10th anniversary together."

The album is a throwback to the signature Westlife music their fans have loved all these years.

"We wanted to get Westlife back. Back to where we were probably five or six years ago. And that's what we are doing. We said no to a lot of songs that our record company wanted us to record, and we chose the songs that had to be ourselves. We felt that we had to make an album that had lots of flavor and tempo," Byrne said.

"Back Home" was recorded in nine weeks with production credits going to names like Quiz Larossi, Per Magnusson, and Rami and Arnthor, alongside longtime friend and collaborator Steve Mac. It contains 12 tracks, nine of which are originals and three covers including the Michael Bublé original "Home."

"It was such a well written song that we just had to include it in our album. Bublé is a jazz singer. He appeals to a different market. So you know, we thought, there was no harm in doing it. It is a fantastic song and we were never against doing a cover for the right reasons. We feel this song was for the right reasons," said Byrne.

As with past albums, Westlife producer (and "American Idol" judge) Simon Cowell played a key factor in choosing the songs to include, like "Home."

"He loved that song and he thought he would see Westilfe doing a pop version of that song," Byrne said.

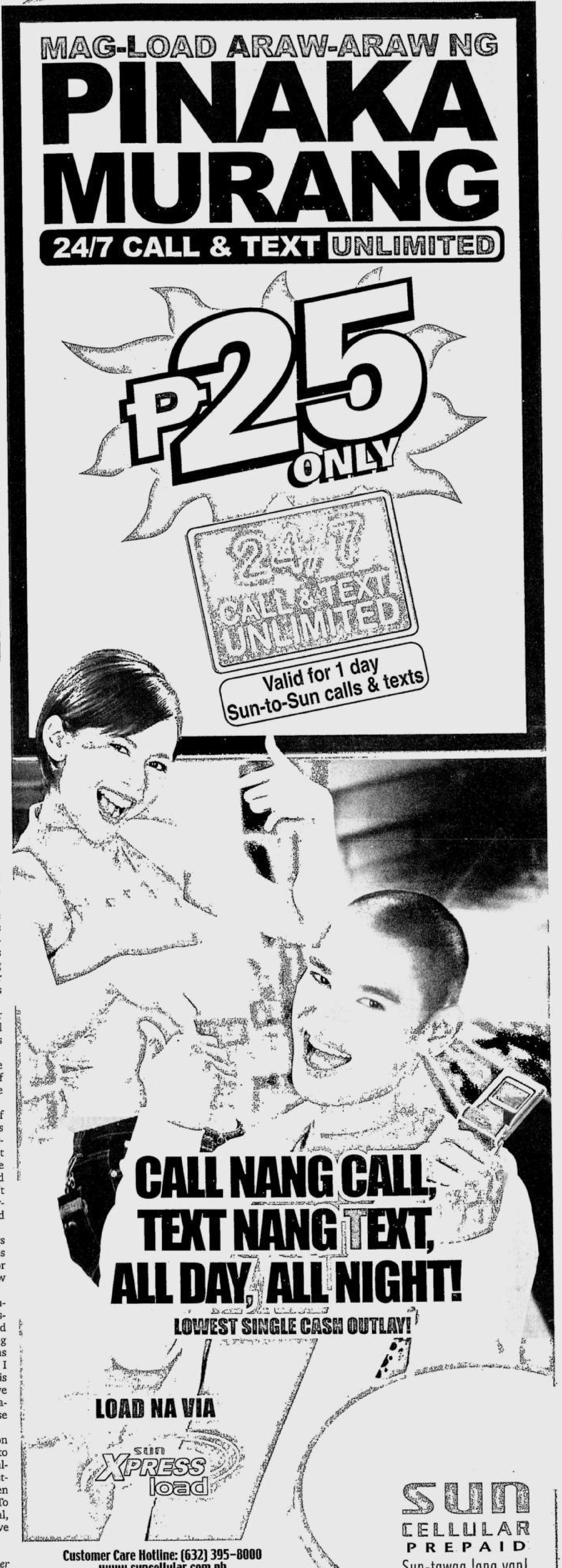
"He chose a lot of the songs. But this year we really wanted an album that would bring Westlife back to what we did best. We wouldn't want too many covers like what we did last year."

The Westlife guys don't see themselves experimenting or venturing into a new sound in the future.

"This album has great pop songs—simple but not complicated. They're easy-listening music. I really appreciate jazz and rock, but for me I always want something that you can just stick on. Of course, it has to have good lyrics and must be catchy. I think we fulfilled that this year with this album. We're back to the basics and we worked with the same producers. The reason that Westlife is still around is because of the songs," Byrne said.

Though they have sold over 36 million records worldwide, the group hopes to surpass the success of their previous albums. "We hope this becomes our biggest-selling album. 'The Love Album' has been very successful. Before that we got 'Face To Face' and 'You Raise Me Up.' So it is a goal, we have to say. I just hope people will give it a chance," Byrne said.

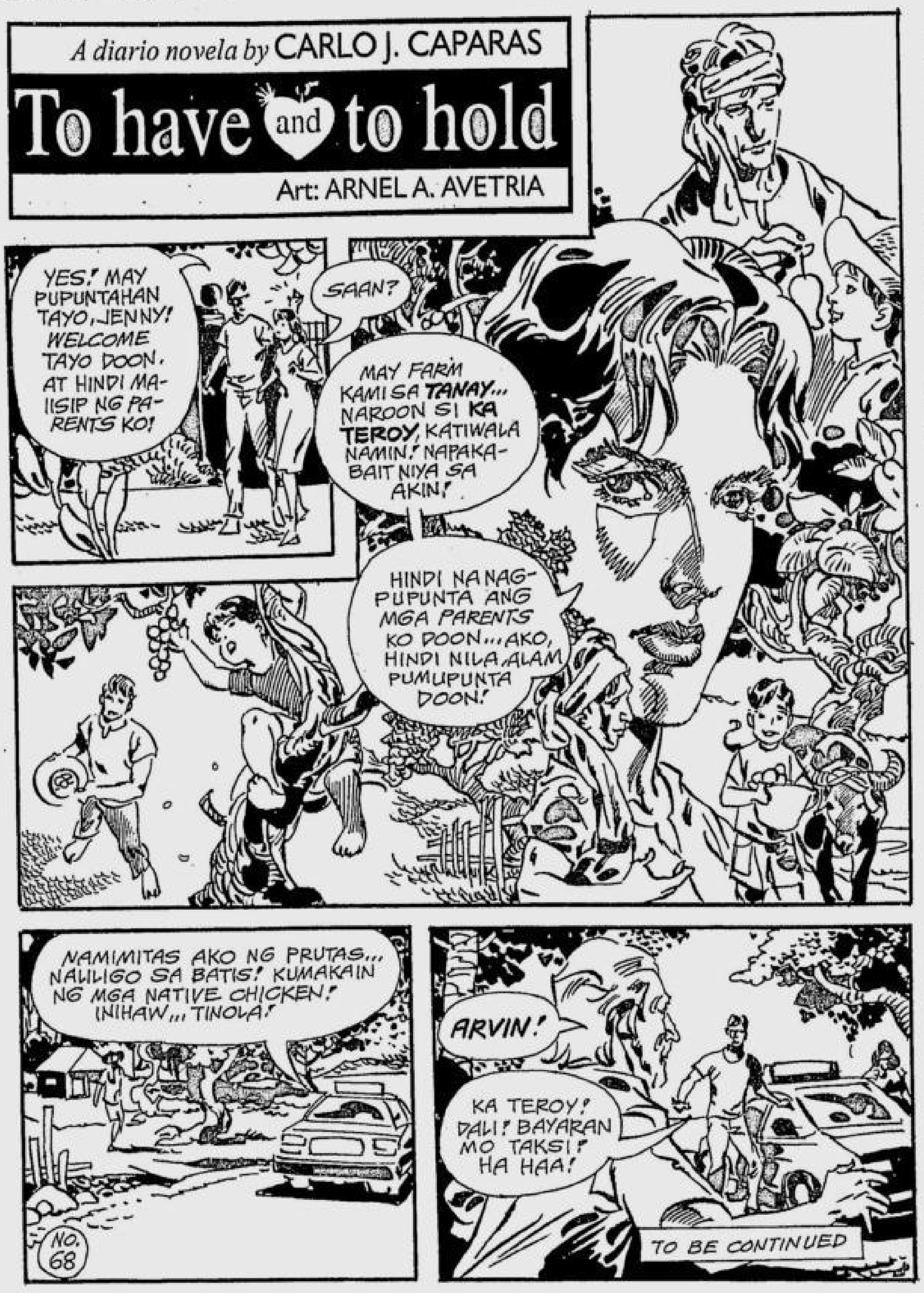
E-mail the author at bedan_rainmaker @hotmail.com



A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

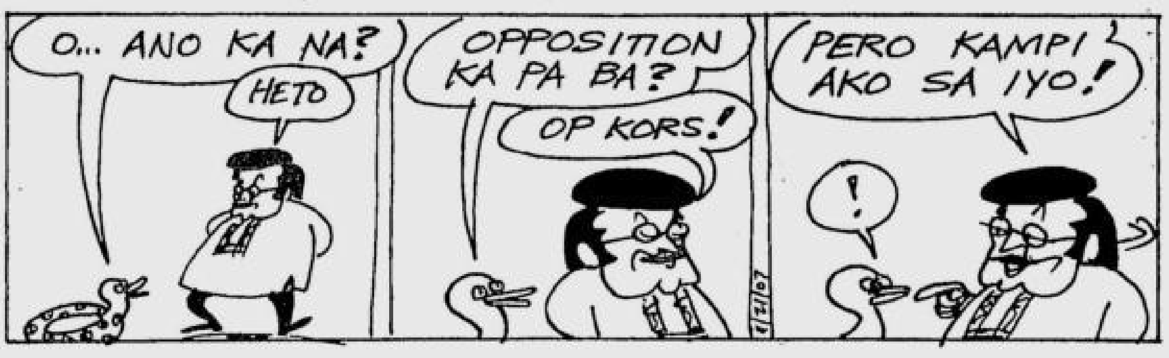
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


YES! MAY PUPUNTAHAN TAYO, JENNY! WELCOME TAYO DOON. AT HINDI MA-IISIP NG PA-RENTS KO!
SAAN?
MAY FARM KAMI SA TANAY... NAROON SI KA TEROY, KATIWALA NAMIN! NAPAKA-BAIT NIYA SA AKIN!
HINDI NA NAG-PUPUNTA ANG MGA PARENTS KO DOON... AKO, HINDI NILA ALAM PUMUPUNTA DOON!
NAMIMITAS AKO NG PRUTAS... NALILIGO SA BATIS! KUMAKAIN NG MGA NATIVE CHICKEN! INIHAW... TINOLA!
ARVIN!
KA TEROY! DALI! BAYARAN MO TAKSI! HA HAA!
NO. 68
TO BE CONTINUED

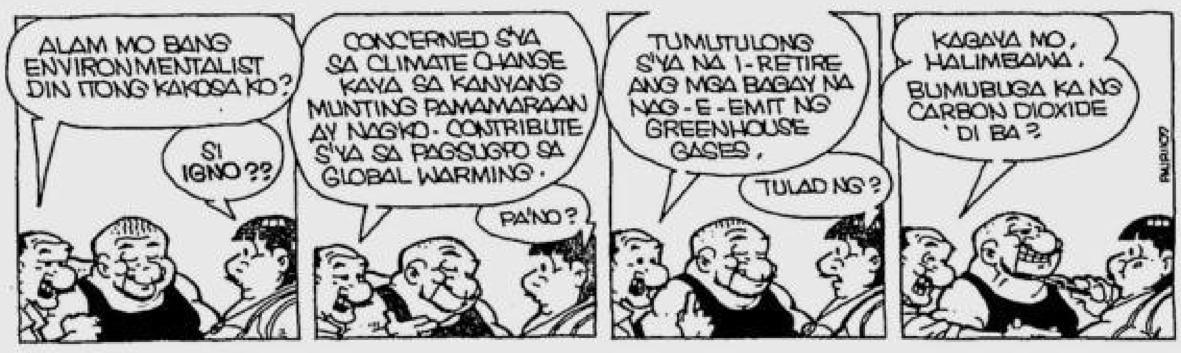
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... ANO KA NA?
HETO
OPPOSITION KA PA BA?
OP KORS!
PERO KAMPI AKO SA IYO!
!

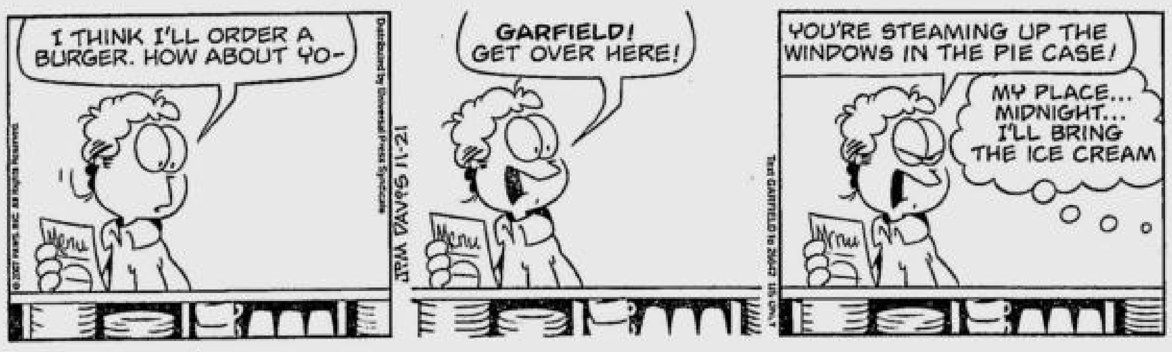
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM MO BANG ENVIRONMENTALIST DIN ITONG KAKOSA KO?
SI IGNO??
CONCERNED S'YA SA CLIMATE CHANGE KAYA SA KANYANG MUNTING PAMAMARAAN AY NAGKO-CONTRIBUTE S'YA SA PAGSUGPO SA GLOBAL WARMING.
PA'NO?
TUMUTULONG S'YA NA I-RETIRE ANG MGA BAGAY NA NAG-E-EMIT NG GREENHOUSE GASES.
TULAD NG?
KAGAYA MO, HALIMBAWA.
BUMUBUGA KA NG CARBON DIOXIDE 'DI BA?

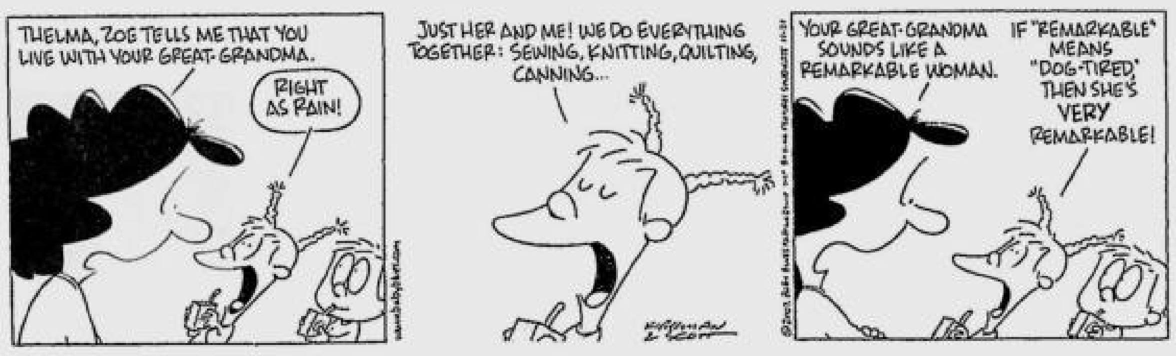
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I THINK I'LL ORDER A BURGER. HOW ABOUT YO-
GARFIELD! GET OVER HERE!
YOU'RE STEAMING UP THE WINDOWS IN THE PIE CASE!
MY PLACE... MIDNIGHT... I'LL BRING THE ICE CREAM
Menu

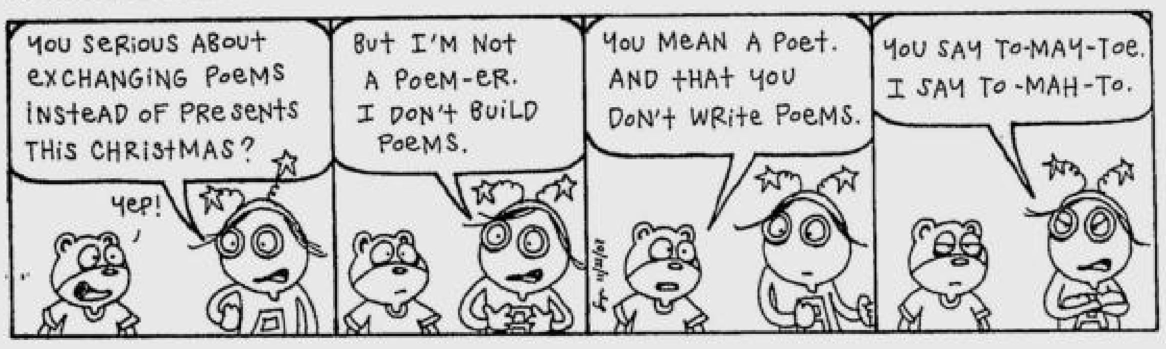
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THELMA, ZOE TELLS ME THAT YOU LIVE WITH YOUR GREAT-GRANDMA.
RIGHT AS RAIN!
JUST HER AND ME! WE DO EVERYTHING TOGETHER: SEWING, KNITTING, QUILTING, CANNING...
YOUR GREAT-GRANDMA SOUNDS LIKE A REMARKABLE WOMAN.
IF "REMARKABLE" MEANS "DOG-TIRED," THEN SHE'S VERY REMARKABLE!

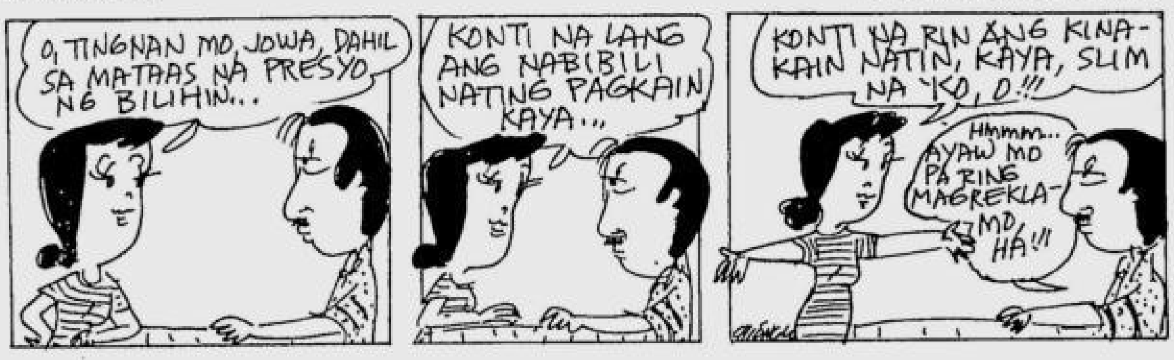
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You serious about exchanging poems instead of presents this Christmas?
Yep!
But I'm not a poem-er. I don't build poems.
You mean a poet. And that you don't write poems.
You say To-MAY-Toe. I say To-MAH-To.

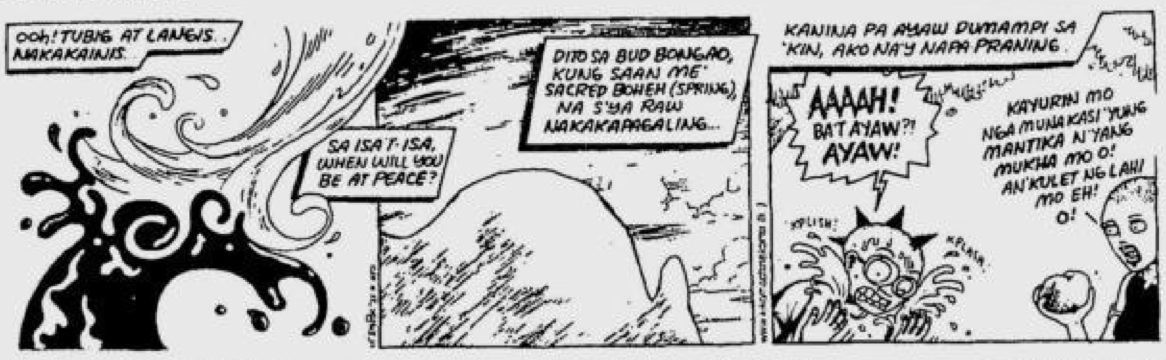
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


O, TINGNAN MO, JOWA, DAHIL SA MATAAS NA PRESYO NG BILIHIN...
KONTI NA LANG ANG NABIBILI NATING PAGKAIN KAYA...
KONTI NA RIN ANG KINA-KAIN NATIN, KAYA, SLIM NA 'KO, O!!!
Hmmm... AYAW MO PA RING MAGREKLA-MO, HA!!!

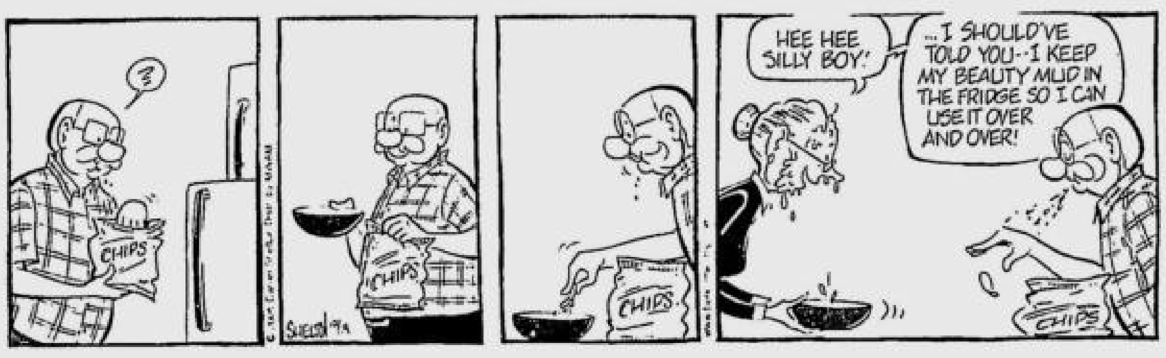
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Ooh! TUBIG AT LANGIS... NAKAKAINIS.
SA ISA'T-ISA, WHEN WILL YOU BE AT PEACE?
DITO SA BUD BONGAO, KUNG SAAN ME' SACRED BOHEH (SPRING) NA S'YA RAW NAKAKAPAGALING...
KANINA PA AYAW DUMAMPI SA 'KIN, AKO NA'Y NAPA PRANING.
AAAAH! BAT AYAW?! AYAW!
KAYURIN MO NGA MUNA KASI 'YUNG MANTIKA N'YANG MUKHA MO O! AN'KULET NG LAHI MO EH! O!
SPLISH!
KPLASH

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


?
CHIPS
CHIPS
CHIPS
HEE HEE SILLY BOY!
...I SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU--I KEEP MY BEAUTY MUD IN THE FRIDGE SO I CAN USE IT OVER AND OVER!
CHIPS

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					■	18				■	19			
20					21					22				
■	■	■	23				■	24				■	■	■
25	26	27	■	28			29	■	30			31	32	33
34			35	■	36			37	■	38				
39				40					41					
42					■	43				■	44			
45					46	■	47			48	■	49		
■	■	■	50			51	■	52			53	■	■	■
54	55	56					57					58	59	60
61				■	62				■	63				
64				■	65				■	66				
67				■	68				■	69				

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
11/21/07

ACROSS
- 1 Not right now
- 6 Proofreader's notation
- 10 Tent site
- 14 Eat away at
- 15 Pianist John
- 16 Medley
- 17 Comic/director Woody
- 18 Bundle of nerves
- 19 Write-off
- 20 Age-old quest
- 23 Polio vaccine developer
- 24 Play the lead
- 25 Mormon abbr.
- 28 Stan and Ang
- 30 Sterling of the NFL
- 34 Sedan or coupe
- 36 Cavort
- 38 Studio alert
- 39 Age-old quest
- 42 Girder substance
- 43 Shoe insert
- 44 Turn on an axis
- 45 __ de corps
- 47 Pravda's news agcy.
- 49 Serpent's sound
- 50 Jacob's sibling
- 52 Exams for srs.
- 54 Age-old quest?
- 61 Oodles and oodles
- 62 Skier's transport
- 63 Bather's sponge
- 64 Arp's art
- 65 Highland Gaelic
- 66 Miller's salesman
- 67 Closes out
- 68 Dag-nabbit!
- 69 No longer together

DOWN
- 1 Plant part
- 2 Folk singer Guthrie
- 3 Fragrant gum
- 4 Idyllic locations
- 5 Car for hire
- 6 Go down swinging
- 7 New driver, usually
- 8 These, in Tijuana
- 9 Larcenies
- 10 Dyes
- 11 Baseball family name
- 12 Fine spray
- 13 One of the Spice Girls
- 21 On one's toes
- 22 Uncouth person
- 25 Slip of the mind
- 26 Songs for couples
- 27 Throat prob.
- 29 Sting
- 31 Marsh birds
- 32 Excessively devout
- 33 Sea eagles
- 35 Gilbert and Sullivan productions
- 37 Delights
- 40 Beethoven's "Fur __"
- 41 Flat-topped hills
- 46 More pungent
- 48 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
- 51 Eclipse shadow
- 53 Condescend
- 54 Commanded
- 55 Flair
- 56 "Sweeney __"
- 57 Tobacco kiln
- 58 Type of tomato
- 59 At a distance
- 60 Breathe shallowly

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	D	E	■	G	A	G	A	■	E	L	I	S	E
A	M	O	R	■	U	P	O	N	■	R	E	N	A	L
N	O	R	M	■	I	P	O	D	■	N	A	F	T	A
G	R	E	A	T	D	E	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N
L	A	M	■	R	O	N	■	E	A	T	E	N	■	■
E	L	I	H	U	■	D	A	W	G	■	■	I	V	E
■	■	■	A	D	D	I	S	■	L	A	O	T	S	E
S	L	A	N	G	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N
T	E	R	K	E	L	■	C	A	S	T	S	■	■	■
Y	A	M	■	■	P	L	A	T	■	R	O	U	G	H
■	■	S	U	S	H	I	■	T	W	O	■	N	R	A
F	I	R	S	T	I	M	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N
I	D	A	H	O	■	P	E	A	L	■	O	T	O	S
F	A	C	E	R	■	E	P	P	S	■	D	E	V	O
I	S	E	R	E	■	T	E	S	H	■	A	D	E	N

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.
11/21/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very passionate and sexual. People sense your intensity. Many admire you for your natural grace and elegance. You like to keep abreast of whatever is happening. Although shrewd, at times you are surprisingly naive. You have excellent imagination, and you're blessed with good taste. Your year ahead is full of fun, social occasions and intimate partnerships.

Birthdate of: Nicollette Sheridan, actress; Bjork, singer; Ken Griffey Jr., baseball outfielder.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have bright ideas about how to use the resources of others or use something that someone else owns in an entirely new and original way. You're very ingenious and resourceful today!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Partners and close friends will surprise you today. Feelings of independence between you and someone else could cause a few problems. But it might just be fun.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're very enterprising at work today. You see new ways of getting things done, especially if these methods use electronics or some kind of technology.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Love at first sight can take place today. Unexpected flirtations could be thrilling. Surprise invitations to parties or social events can please you. Enjoy your day!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Unexpected company might drop by today. Surprise purchases of technology could please you. Family members are definitely unpredictable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're full of bright, new, clever ideas today. You also will likely meet new faces or encounter interesting people. This is good because you're bored with routine right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Spontaneous purchases and impulse shopping are likely today. However, the good news is that you're full of original moneymaking ideas. Tell them to others or write them down.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Routine will bore you today. You're full of bright ideas. Tackle old problems because you will dream up new solutions. You're highly inventive today!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a restless day for you. You feel like you need to be somewhere else or you're looking for something. You might not know what to do because you're pulled in so many directions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with friends and groups are interesting because unexpected news and juicy gossip are exciting. In some way, someone will surprise you today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Bosses, parents and VIPs are impressed with your bright ideas today. You're showing them that you can think outside of the box. Don't be afraid to speak up.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you can learn anything new about an unusual subject today, you will be delighted. You have a strong desire for adventure and the need for something different. In particular, you want to expand your mind with interesting new facts!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

				8				
			4		6			
		1				3		
		7		5		6		
	6	9				1	5	
2	8	5		1		4	3	7
		8				9		
	9	3	8		1	7	2	
7	1			2			8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★
11/21

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

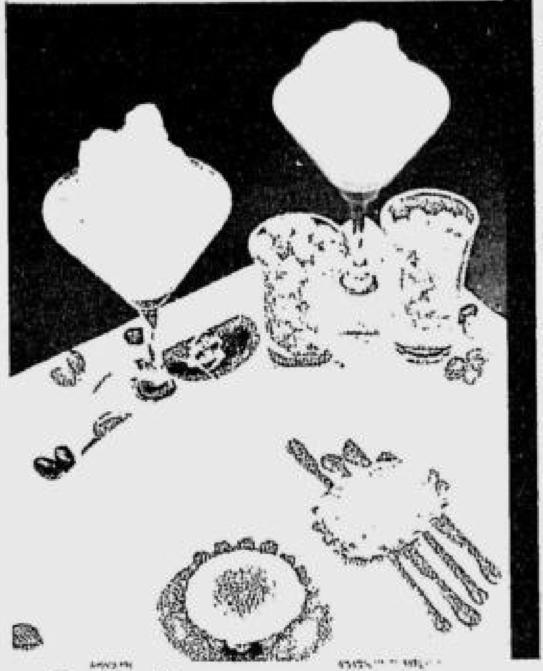
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

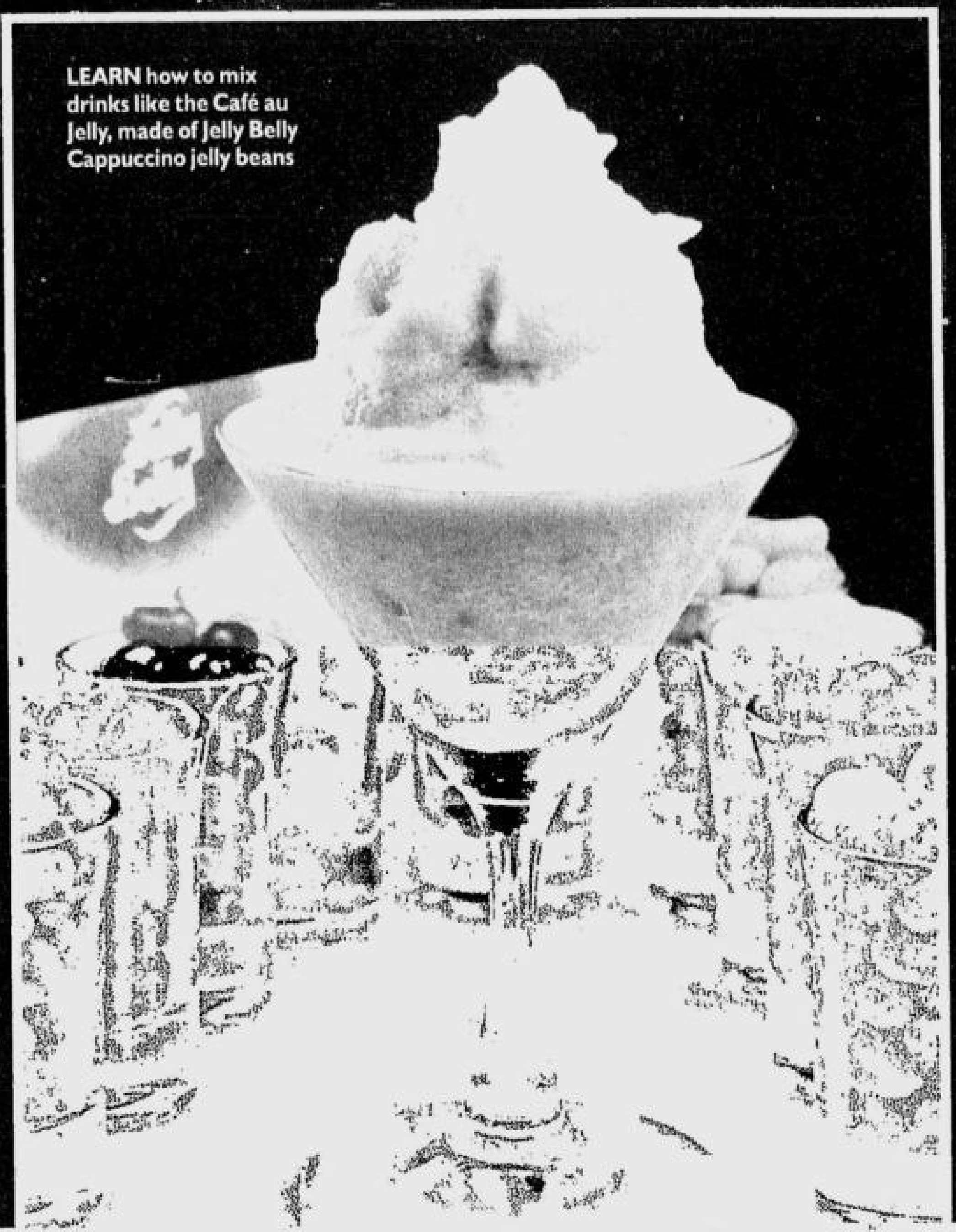
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	7	1	3	2	5	8	4	6
6	5	4	1	7	8	3	2	9
3	2	8	6	9	4	7	1	5
4	9	7	8	5	3	2	6	1
2	6	3	7	1	9	5	8	4
1	8	5	2	4	6	9	3	7
5	3	9	4	8	1	6	7	2
8	1	2	9	6	7	4	5	3
7	4	6	5	3	2	1	9	8

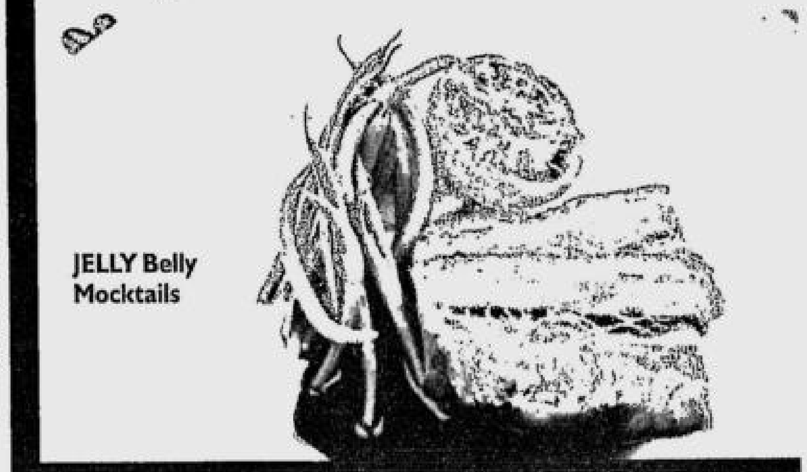
Difficulty Level ★★
11/20





LEARN how to mix drinks like the Café au Jelly, made of Jelly Belly Cappuccino jelly beans

Jelly Belly Mocktails taste like cocktail drinks but without the dangerous alcohol



JELLY Belly Mocktails

License to drink and drive

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

MANY YOUNG PEOPLE CONsider drinking as the coolest thing in any hot party. While it is not necessarily the coolest thing on earth, especially with all the brawls, hangovers, vomiting and all the other embarrassing things it can cause, there is no denying that drinking has already become a staple in most shindigs.

What makes drinking extremely uncool is when it is done by the one assigned to drive for the night.

Vehicular accidents due to drunk-driving happen around the world with one person dying every 30 minutes, amounting to 17,000 fatalities every year. And with 12 percent of the population shown to be heavy and harmful drinkers, according to a 2001 World Health Organization survey, no one is really safe from a road dominated by an inebriated driver.

Even celebs have had their share of vehicular mishaps because of boozing and still manning the wheel. Personalities such as Paris Hilton, Nicole Richie and Linday Lohan have all faced criminal charges for it.

Amid all these accidents—plus the $51 billion worth of property becoming unrecognizable scrap material—is a hero everyone should give a toast to: the designated driver who makes sure he misses out on all the drinking during the party just so he could bring the whole gang and himself home without a scratch.

Pseudo-alcohols

Jelly Belly, the world's No. 1 gourmet jelly beans, has decided to bring back the fun in sobriety and put an end to how designated drivers feel like they're designated losers.

EL CIRKULO'S J Gamboa, Cellar Dwellers' Dax Jaurigue, and Candy Corner's Ricky and Bubu Andres

Jelly Belly has come up with an exciting mix of Jelly Belly Mocktails. With the same great taste of the party scene's cocktails but without the alcohol, these cool drinks spare designated drivers both the "un-coolness" of being the only one sipping juice in a party and the intoxication caused by alcoholic beverages.

"Designated drivers have made roads a safer place for everyone," explains Ricky Andres, president of Candy Corner, which exclusively carries Jelly Belly in the country.

"We are rewarding their commitment by offering alternative drinks that are as fun and delightful as compared to their favorite cocktail drinks."

Tailor-made for designated drivers and their cocktail-loving taste buds are the various Jelly Belly Mocktails flavors such as Orange Banana, Apple Cinnamon, Apple Orange, Apple Pineapple, Sprity Strawberry and Not a Piñacolada.

Made with various flavors of Jelly Belly jelly beans such as Strawberry Cheesecake, Cinnamon and Top Banana, the Mocktails were created by Cellar Dwellers, which specializes in drink mixes.

According to Dax Jaurigue, "chief mixologist" of Cellar Dwellers, their business is all about selling alcoholic beverages but they definitely don't want accidents to happen.

"Our support for the Jelly Belly Mocktails is our way of redeeming the alcoholic beverage industry by using our talents to prevent drunk driving-related accidents but in a more fun and relevant way," Jaurigue says.

During the launch of the Jelly Belly Mocktails last Nov. 13 at El Cirkulo, not only were guests urged to try all the mocktails (Newton's Orange Punch, Berry Fizz, Original Cinn and Orange Banana Oasis), they were also treated to gourmet grub prepared by chef Jay Gamboa of El Cirkulo to go with the drinks.

Most notable among the food were the desserts (Caramel & Apple Cinnamon Pie and the Lemon & Cheesecake Tart) that made use of Jelly Belly jelly beans. Of course, the venue was also littered with several jars and saucers of Jelly Belly jelly beans, including those in the best-selling Buttered Popcorn flavor.

Make your own martini

Candy Corner, a confectionery kingdom with 79 outlets nationwide, also launched the "Jelly Belly Martini Recipe Book" especially made for homebodies who go for more intimate celebrations.

The compilation consists of both mocktails and cocktails made more interesting with the Jelly Belly jelly beans used as main ingredients.

Thanks to the Jelly Belly Mocktails that are sure to take the metropolitan party scene by storm, not only is the designated driver made cool, the roads are made a safer place, too.

E-mail the author at ninomarksablan@yahoo.com

Mall promotes college programs on entrepreneurship

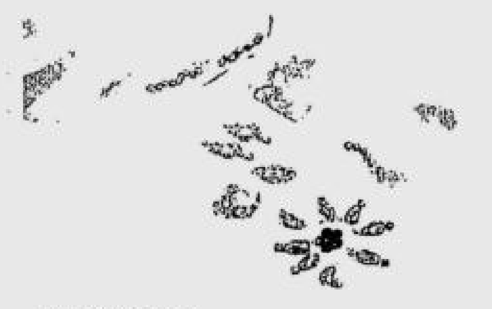
UNIQUE CREATIONS AND ORIGINAL FOOD RECIPES will be showcased in San Beda Entrep Fair '07: The Advocacy of Emerging Entrepreneurs Towards Bedan Legacy, on Nov. 21-Dec. 22, at Level 1, East Wing, Robinsons Galleria.

The fair is organized by Robinsons Malls in conjunction with its program, Entrep Corner, together with San Beda College's Department of Business Management and Entrepreneurship.

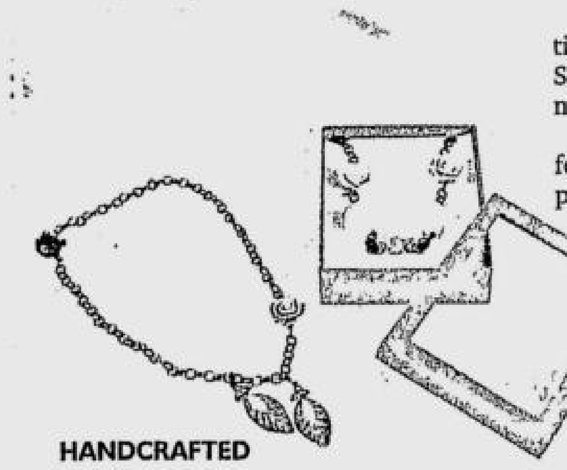
"We are very happy to host again San Beda College for the nth time. The students are very enthusiastic and passionate about the Entrep Corner project wherein they will able to maximize their entrepreneurial skills and creativity," said Roseann Coscolluela-Villegas, Robinsons Land Corporation corporate PR manager.

"This retail experience will give the students an opportunity to market their innovative products and compete with mainstream business establishments."

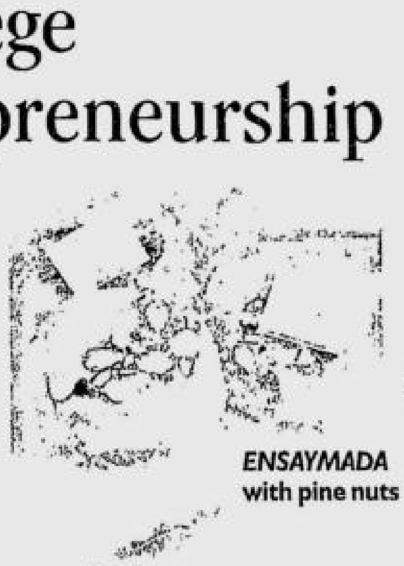
The one-month event will featured over 40 student companies offering a variety of goods and services.



FAUX jewelry



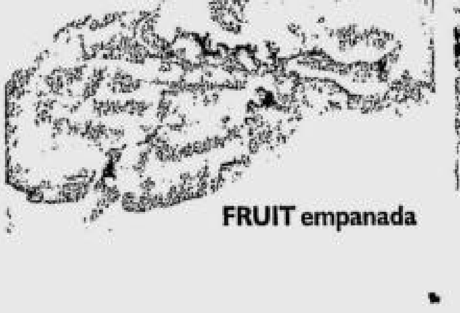
HANDCRAFTED jewelry



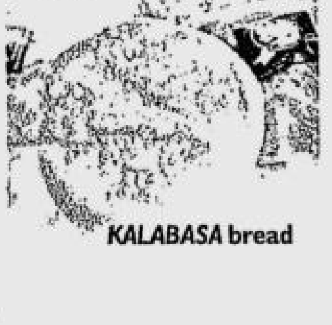
ENSAYMADA with pine nuts

CHOCOLATE-FLAVORED waffle

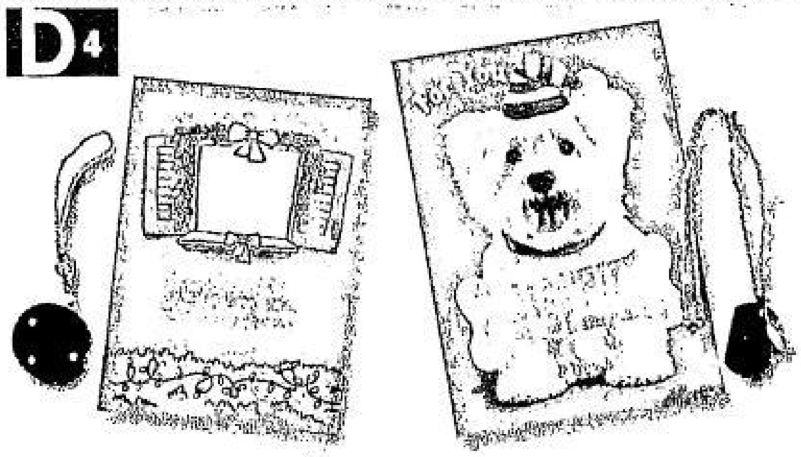
TEMPURA balls



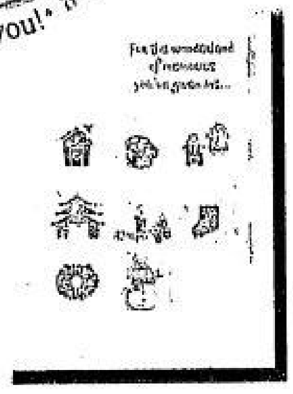
FRUIT empanada



KALABASA bread



Giving your presents that special touch



HALLMARK offers an extra dose of thoughtfulness for your loved ones.

ADD FLAIR TO YOUR PRESENTS with Hallmark's Gift in a Card and Christmas Counter Cards.

Aside from the heartwarming messages, every card contains a token that will make recipients feel even more special. A wide selection of designs and gifts is available.

You reached out
to me
in friendship...

Hallmark Cards are exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corp. and are available in all National Book store outlets and leading stores nationwide.

In addition to those special cards, make your gifts even more distinctive with fancy wrapping.

Turn simple presents into works of art with a little effort and some help from Hallmark's Handmade Handle Bags.

Designed for the season of gift giving, the bags come in the traditional colors of red and green with two elegant designs to choose from. Available in various sizes (small, medium and wine bags), the handle bags are suitable for any gift.

Hallmark's Handmade Handle Bags are exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corp. and are available in all National Book store outlets and leading stores nationwide.

It's the tote that counts

THIS SEASON'S MUST-HAVE BAG isn't made of ultra-luxurious, rare materials or the skin of some poor animal. It doesn't cost an arm and a leg, a year of credit card debt or a month's allowance.

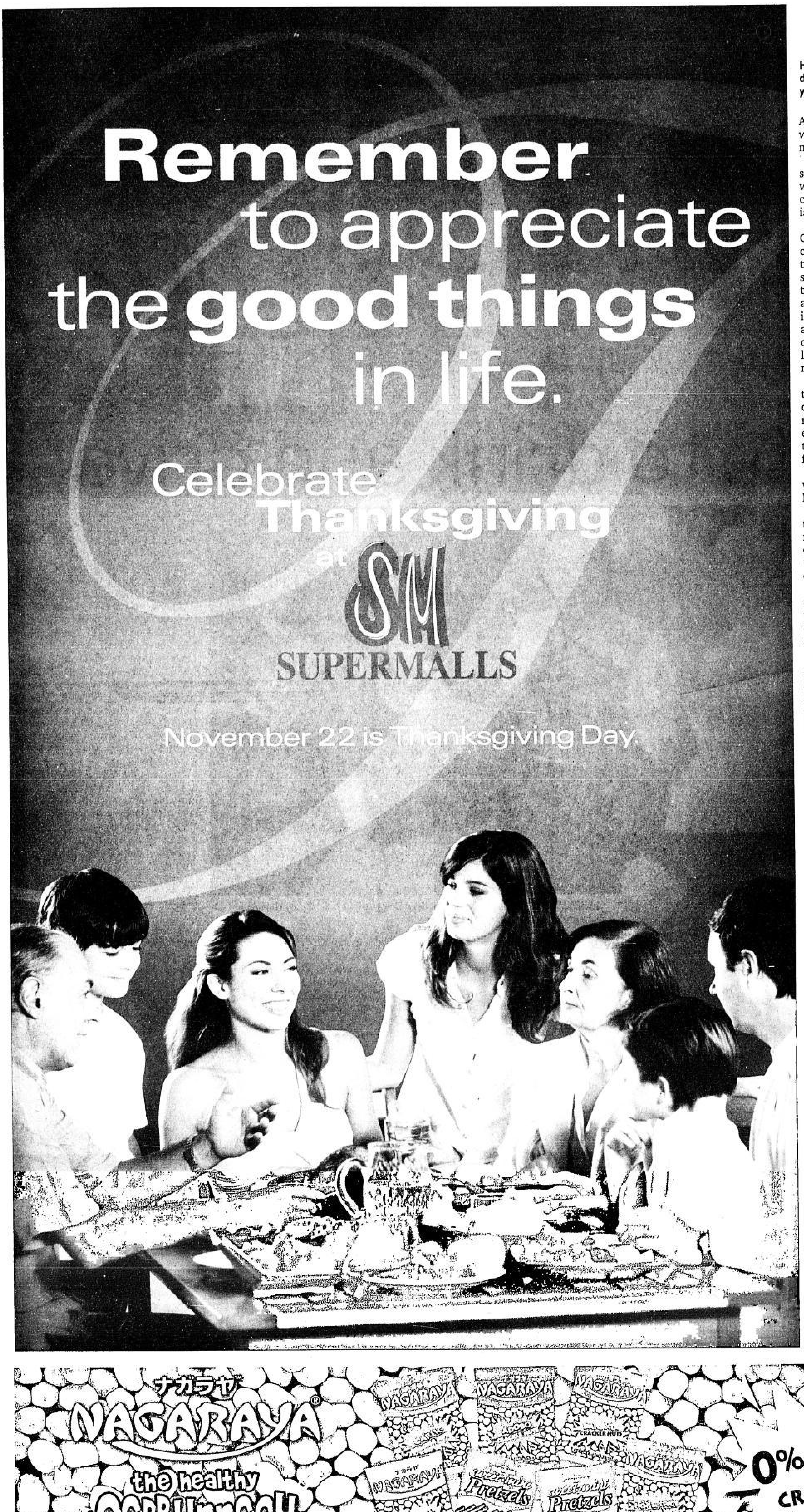
It can be on your arm for absolutely free. It's not a frivolous indulgence, but a fashionably responsible choice.

That's because this season's must-have bag is Penshoppe's Billboard Bag, a chic tote made of recycled tarpaulin from what used to be Penshoppe's eye-catching billboards. Penshoppe reused hundreds of meters of tarpaulin from dozens of its billboards across the country to make a one-of-a-kind accessory for the smart and socially-conscious fashionista.

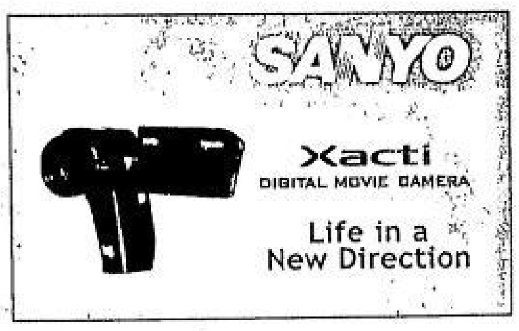
The stylish, roomy Billboard Bag is completely versatile and reusable, lending itself well to any number of situations and outfits. Whether buying groceries or a new pair of shoes, using this bag cuts down on the use of non-recyclable plastic bags, which are among the most long-lasting pollutants and least recycled waste materials on the planet. With every plastic bag saved, Mother Earth breathes easier and becomes closer to being free of deadly pollutants.

Penshoppe's Billboard Bag is exclusively available at Penshoppe boutiques in SM Mall of Asia, SM Megamall, TriNoma, Robinsons Place Ermita, SM Cebu, Ayala Cebu and SM Davao.

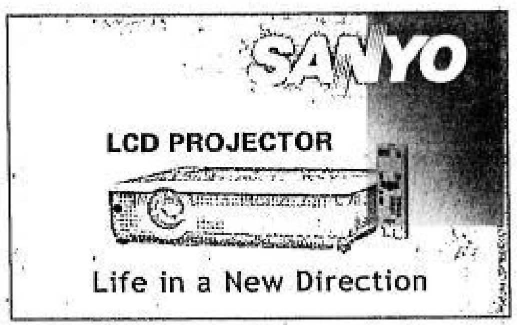
Get it for free for a minimum purchase of P2,000 in a single receipt. These limited-edition bags is available until Dec. 15.


Remember to appreciate the good things in life.
Celebrate Thanksgiving at SM SUPERMALLS
November 22 is Thanksgiving Day.

ナガラヤ
NAGARAYA®
the healthy
CCRUNNCCH
NAGARAYA
ORIGINAL CRACKER NUTS
Pretzels
sweet-mini Pretzels
0% TRANSFAT CHOLESTEROL
CRACKER NUTS

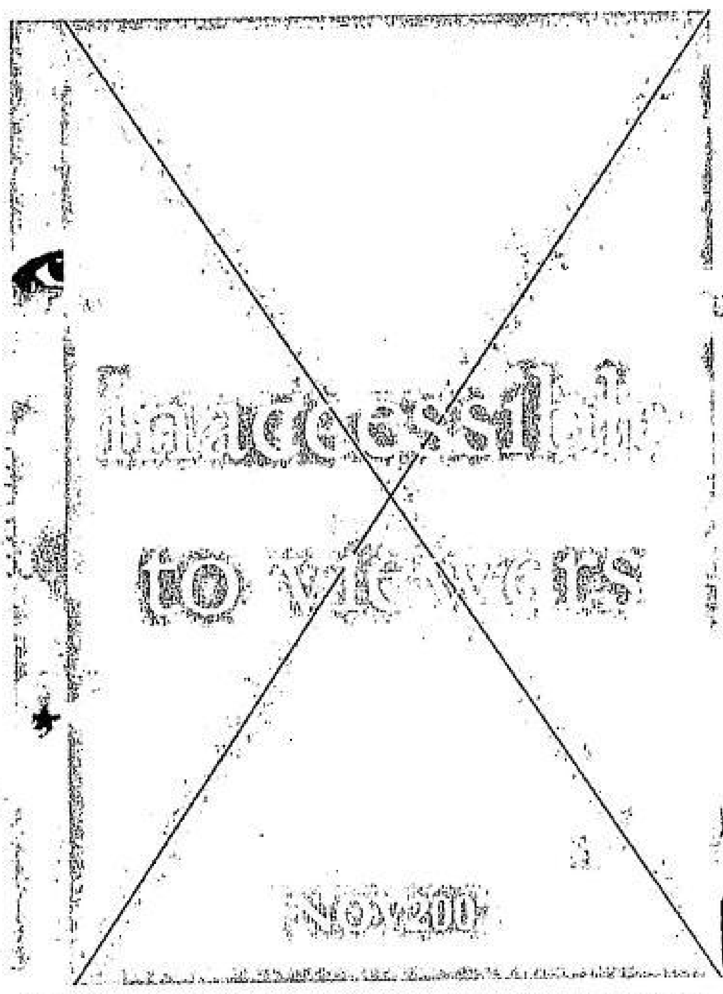

SANYO
Xacti
DIGITAL MOVIE CAMERA
Life in a New Direction

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2007
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
E1
le@inquirer.com.ph
w.inquirer.net/lifestyle
t us your feedback:
name/age/city/message to
2267 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)


SANYO
LCD PROJECTOR
Life in a New Direction

A portrait of the artist as moron

Fil-Italian Costantino Zicarelli and young maverick Buen Calubayan combine visuals and performance to challenge conventions in a show that opens Nov. 29 at CCP


Inaccessible to viewers
Nov 200

BUEN Calubayan bars the audience from entering the physical artistic premises.

Angelo V. Suárez
2bU! Contributor

WHEN CONCEPTUALIST frontman Joseph Kosuth proposed art to be an analytic proposition—away from the prized pedestal of sight and toward the backroom of the mind—he was met with skepticism. After all, this entailed the dematerialization of the artwork, becoming pure concept incapable of being sold by commercial galleries.

While decades have passed since this radical reformulation, and discourses regarding the nature of artistic activity continue to be produced (have in fact become artworks in themselves), the same skepticism cannot be avoided upon contact with the work of Costantino Zicarelli and Buen Calubayan.

Which may well be, indeed, one of the most salient points of Zicarelli's recently concluded exhibit, "I'm with Stupid/I'm Not with Stupid," and Calubayan's upcoming "Idiot Show for Idiots."

But skeptical in what manner? Where Kosuth's analytical conceptualism stops at a tautological questioning of what constitutes art objects as such, Zicarelli intervenes to reveal his skepticism of what constitutes reality per se, playfully reveling in the fallacy of visual and linguistic reference by locating his work in a broader social context.

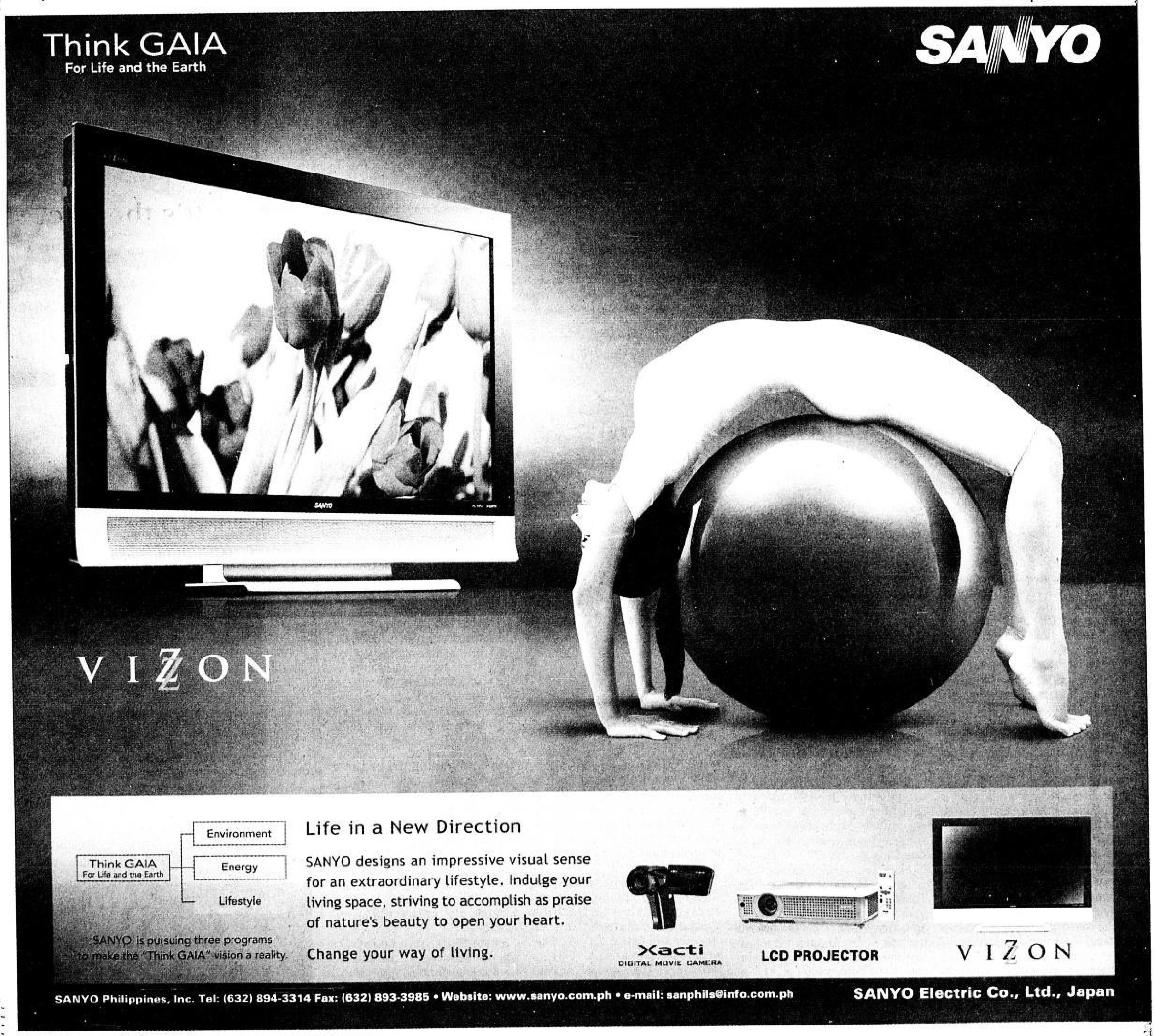
Home is where the art is

Playing up the role of context in approaching a work of art by refusing to house his project in a gallery, he resorts to turning his own literal house instead into both a gallery and the very project itself in simultaneity.

For an entire week on October, the Zicarelli household was open to the viewing public, each welcome within certain hours to look at everything inside, from sleeping quarters to appliances and the most commonplace of objects—so absurdly commonplace, in fact, that they become

A PORTRAIT/ E2

SulitiPid combos
P29
combo 1
1 *Donut + *Coffee
regular
P39
combo 3
2 Cups of *Coffee
P29
5 Munchkins + 1 Coca-Cola
P46
2 Choco Wackos + 1 Coca-Cola
DUNKIN' DONUTS


Think GAIA
For Life and the Earth
SANYO
VIZON
Think GAIA
For Life and the Earth
Environment
Energy
Lifestyle
Xacti
DIGITAL MOVIE CAMERA
LCD PROJECTOR
VIZON

SANYO is pursuing three programs to make the "Think GAIA" vision a reality.

Life in a New Direction

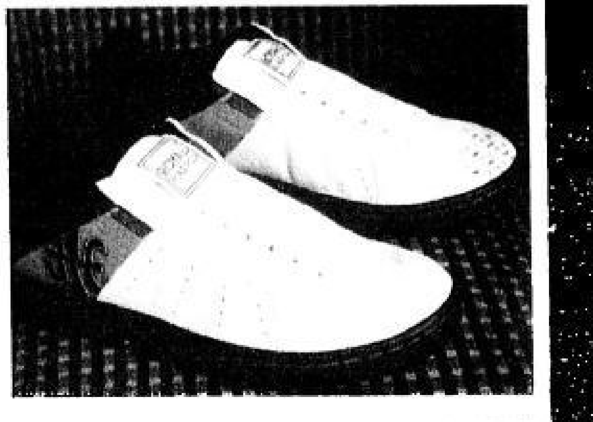
SANYO designs an impressive visual sense for an extraordinary lifestyle. Indulge your living space, striving to accomplish as praise of nature's beauty to open your heart.

Change your way of living.

SANYO Philippines, Inc. Tel: (632) 894-3314 Fax: (632) 893-3985 • Website: www.sanyo.com.ph • e-mail: sanphils@info.com.ph

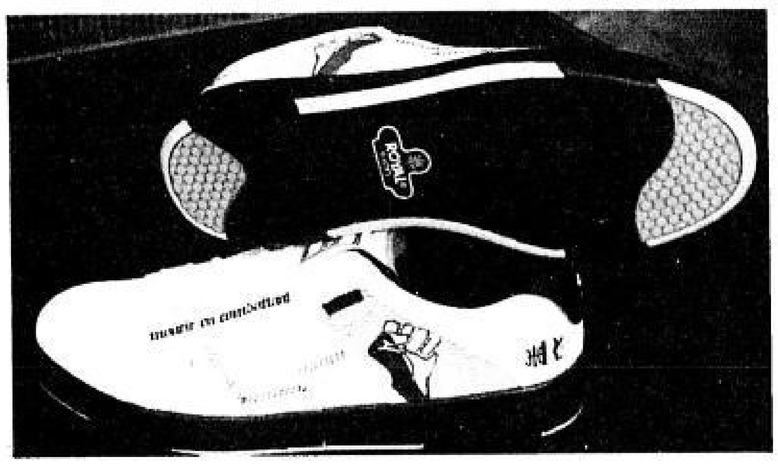
SANYO Electric Co., Ltd., Japan

Avida
Affordable living at its best
an AyalaLand company
visit www.avidaland.com
Feeling safe
Avida
Sure & Secure



THE FASHION FREAKS

Losing those laces



Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

SHOES DON'T NEED LACES. THAT WAS the big realization of two Australian trendsetters in 1996—the very same idea that led to the birth of Royal Elastics.

Since then, the brand has gained a cult following around the world—and the internet-savvy ones declare their love for their lace-free shoes on the world wide web. "I was amazed at how super cute they were and how extremely comfy," wrote one Royal Elastics fan. Others had similar comments. "They're very lightweight and the soles so cushy." "These are probably the most comfortable shoes I've bought in a long time ... maybe ever! They feel like I'm walking in my bare feet."

Royal Elastics also has a lot of celebrity fans, including Gwen Stefani who did her L.A.M.B. shoe line with the brand. Her line has been a huge hit and has led to yet another collaboration—Royal Elastics' Harajuku Lovers line. There is also a collection in conjunction with the Andy Warhol Foundation.

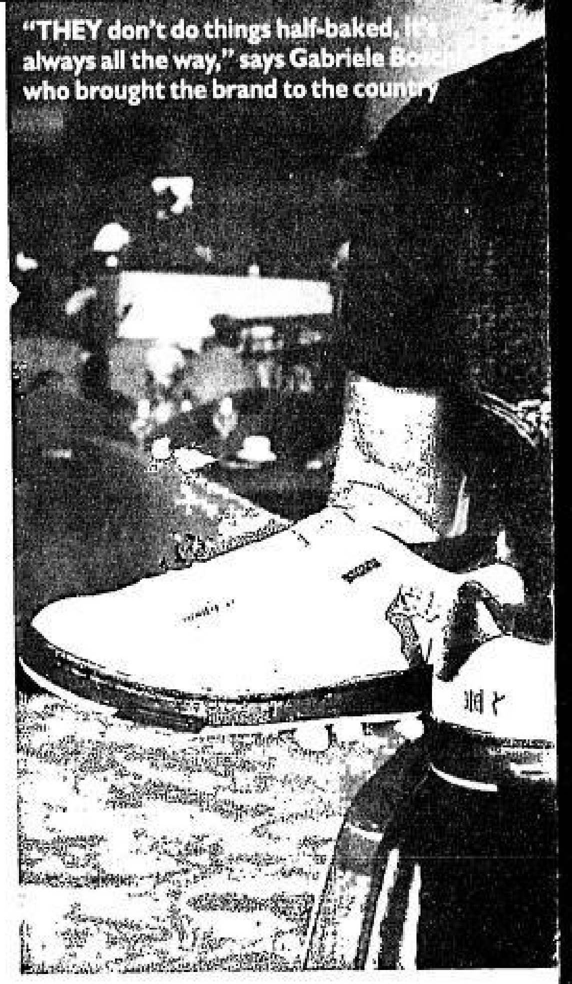
Even shopping websites like Zappos.com have shown the brand a lot of love. "It's hardly a stretch to say that Royal Elastic is one of the coolest, most innovative brands, combining equal parts of vintage-athletic cool and haute couture runway style, all without the use of laces."

And there's good news for shoe-loving Pinoys—Royal Elastics has found a new home in the Philippines, thanks to Gabriele Boschi, who also brought Rudy Project to the country. Gabriele became a quick fan of the brand and decided to bring it closer to Filipinos. "Everything is always new. They always have new designs. And they don't do things half-baked, it's always all the way." It also makes The Fashion Freaks proud to know that Royal Elastics' main designer John Bondoc is half-Filipino.

Royal Elastics has stores in TriNoma and Mall of Asia and they will open five more stores by next year.

On this page, 2bU! lets you feast your eyes on current and upcoming designs from Royal Elastics. But why settle for looking when you can slip them on?

E-mail The Fashion Freaks at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.



"THEY don't do things half-baked, it's always all the way," says Gabriele Bo who brought the brand to the country

A portrait of the artist as moron

From page E1

the spatial equivalent of experimental poet Gertrude Stein's "Tender Buttons," where words for household terms like Duchamp's readymades are unshackled from their referential/functional context and brought into a poetry/art environment in a hyper-Formalist (whether intentionally or unintentionally is irrelevant) gesture of defamiliarization.

However, Zicarelli complicates the Duchampian conceit exactly by not taking his goods to a gallery for display. He simply labels each object with a title and declares their variable dimensions, consequently alluding with ease to the more-than-familiar art contexts viewers are deeply acquainted with.

This, in turn, cleverly evokes not so much art's reliance on social institutions but the arbitrariness of this reliance.

In turning the Zicarelli household into an art environment, "I'm with Stupid/I'm Not with Stupid" demystifies what is usually perceived as the neutral or passive role of the gallery or museum and points with acerbic humor (in the manner of I'm with Stupid T-shirts) at the covert processes institutions manipulatively play a part in—if not outrightly instigate—in shaping aesthetic dogma and the standards with which "authorities" measure a work's quality of and art-ness.

It is by way of such subtlety that this Filipino-Italian artist becomes graceful in his work, in spite of its political overtones. And to heighten this grace and subdue his politics—isn't politics after all more potent when discreet?—he juxtaposes against it a sly refunctioning of "I'm with Stupid" in classy-kitschy counterpoint.

It's a two-way extension Zicarelli commits herein: he first partners the affirmative statement with its negation (hence "I'm Not with Stupid"), only to drag these conjoined sentences and turn them into titular templates.

In this fashion, a simple kitchen toaster is therefore labeled "This is a toaster/This is not a toaster," a bedroom he shares with his brother is "This is Alessandro and Costantino's bedroom/This is not Alessandro and Costantino's bedroom," and the stairway is, well, you get the picture.

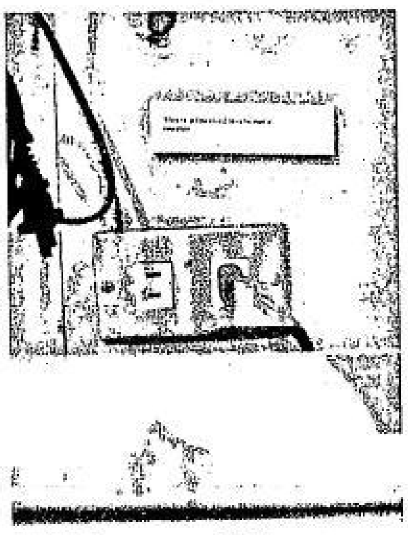
'Grit' in 'Magritte'

Which is exactly it: whatever they do, audiences get only the picture and never the hand that makes it—flat in its concealment of real social occurrences.

Ironically, this is achieved by Zicarelli without having to rely on constructed images, as in a painting or photograph, unlike Magritte who emphasized on his work's pictorial quality.

Allusion to the Belgian surrealist is inevitable, for it was his "The Treachery of Images" with its infamous depiction of a pipe and painted textual accompaniment "This is not a pipe" that jumpstarted an entire tradition of verbo-visual discourse about the complex nature of verbo-visual discourse itself.

But while Magritte only goes so far as calling attention to the simulacral character of pictures and representation (the pipe he depicts after all is, in its depiction, but an image of a pipe), Zicarelli takes the extra puff that reveals the smoke of simulation to cover up more than merely the "picturality" of pictures but the equal picturality of everything else. A toaster, thus, is not essentially a toaster, but a toaster only insofar as toasters have been socially constructed for us by the dominant classes: rectangular and electric, with double slots for dual slices of bread mysteriously analogous to the principle of binary oppositions most systems of thought are founded upon.



"THIS is a toaster/This is not a toaster"

And there's hardly any surprise when even the basic linguistic reality of grammar is subjected to this critique of arbitrariness. The keen observer will notice not just awkward nomenclature (e.g. "This is a DVD table/This is not a DVD table," where the so-called DVD table is an ordinary desk on whose surface is a stack of pirated discs) but blatantly inconsistent syntactical patterns and ungrammatical moments as well (e.g. "This is light switch/This is not a light switch"), as if to bring to fore the artist's problematic heritage.

As a minoritarian cultural figure, his idiosyncratic utterance is always in danger of being rendered insignificant because incapable of proper signification—all under the hegemonic aegis of grammaticality, now unfortunately held sacred by the dominant Filipino academy.

Who knew that through sheer demystification, one could put the "grit" back into "Magritte," recalling the latter's earlier discourse into newfound utility for contemporary times?

"One object suggests that there is another lurking behind it," goes the Surrealist artist, and Zicarelli goes out of his way (while paradoxically staying home) to expose the objects that lurk behind the objects that lurk still behind other objects—systems of power that ironically loom large in spite of their concealment.

Duchampioning the invisible

To stretch the previous metaphor of travel, the path to collision with concept takes a drastic turn toward the gallery after an insightful stopover at home.

But Calubayan makes sure this road is a dead-end, recalling a 1969 exhibition by Robert Barry where "for the duration of the exhibition, the gallery will remain closed."

Quite literally on a similar note, Calubayan hangs by the entrance to Cultural Center of the Philippine's Bulwagang Amorsolo the assertion that his show is "inaccessible to viewers." By doing such, he commits the verbo-conceptual pun of simultaneously Barry-ing and barring the audience from entering physical artistic premises—acts that at once look back to conceptualist tradition yet also celebrate the spirit of transgression.

And what could be more renegade than transgressing an art model formulated by Marcel Duchamp, the prince of renegades himself?

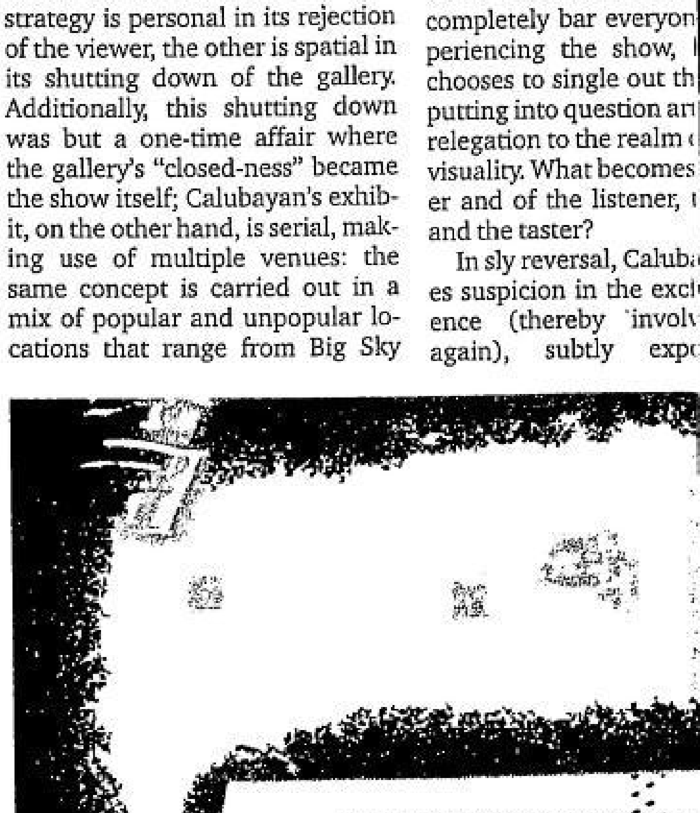
For moving beyond playing a trick on the viewer by closing down the gallery in the event of his exposition, Calubayan completely displaces the viewer in artistic practice, rendering the latter irrelevant—this in spite of Duchamp's championing of the audience as co-creators in the completion of artistic work, as what his influential lecture, "The Creative Act," indicates.

The nuances of "Idiot Show for Idiots'" departure from Barry's exhibit are critical: while the former's strategy is personal in its rejection of the viewer, the other is spatial in its shutting down of the gallery. Additionally, this shutting down was but a one-time affair where the gallery's "closed-ness" became the show itself; Calubayan's exhibit, on the other hand, is serial, making use of multiple venues: the same concept is carried out in a mix of popular and unpopular locations that range from Big Sky Mind to the artist's priv
Jelo Submarine, project
be brought to commerci
stores within malls.

In this multiplicity, "
for Idiots" is a kind of
passing up the opportu
lieve the audience of s
for the benefit of one sp
in favor of relieving the
cance for good.

And yet an allia
Duchamp is strengther
specificity of viewers
Calubayan could simply
ed to close down the
completely bar everyon
periencing the show,
chooses to single out th
putting into question ar
relegation to the realm
visuality. What becomes
er and of the listener,
and the taster?

In sly reversal, Calub
es suspicion in the excl
ence (thereby involv
again), subtly exp



"THIS is a DVD table/This is not a DVD table"

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FASHION PRESENT AND FUTURE.
Current and upcoming styles from Royal Elastics

ate studio,
ed to even
ıl sites like

diot Show
insistence,
nity to re-
gnificance
cific show
ı of signifi-

nce with
ed by the
ip: while
have opt-
gallery or
from ex-
ıe instead
"viewer,"
s common
f sight and
of the feel-
he smeller

yan arous-
ıded audi-
ng them
sing the

hypocrisy involved in much of artistic practice and management.

When even in the supposed age of multi- and intermedia, in a culture that professes to celebrate difference and plurality, monolithic structures and exclusionary metanarratives are still very much in place—and one such structure begging to be subverted is the privileged position of the visual in art.

"I have forced myself to contradict myself in order to avoid conforming to my own taste," declares Duchamp, and Calubayan treads the same path of paradox: in critiquing the exclusionary character of art systems, he has to commit the act of exclusion.

"Idiot Show for Idiots," thus, is both a subversion of and homage to the great French rebel—for there lies no better way to extol the virtues of artmaking than to boldly give it the finger.

With the deceptively simple yet multi-layered strategies employed by Zicarelli and Calubayan, one wonders if the two have made fools of their audiences.

The narrow-minded traditionalist will probably say, "No, they have merely made fools of themselves," and s/he is likely to be right—for in their critique of art systems they have in turn been coopted into these very systems. And in doing so, without having to raise a pen or a brush, they have created portraits not only of the Filipino artist as a moron, but of the audience as well, of the critic and the aesthete—and most cynically, of themselves.

Buen Calubayan's "Idiot Show for Idiots" opens 6 p.m. at CCP's Bulwagang Amorsolo Nov. 29 and runs there until Dec. 31.

Graffiti artists hold rare congress

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU PUT together a world-renowned graffiti writer, 250 amazingly designed skate decks, cans of spray paint, an open bar and Royal Elastics?

One royal experience.

The Royal Elastics dekArt 2007 had more than 250 skate decks with the theme, Icons of the World, on display at the Bubble Tent in the Bonifacio Global City. The icons include legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix, "Super Size Me" star Ronald McDonald, Pope John Paul II and even Jesus Christ.

The religious experience continued as Stormie Mills worked on a mural that could make a graffiti believer even out of Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando.

Using his signature monochromatic palate, the Perth native drew his interpretation of the Holy Trinity, which he said, was inspired by his observations on the Filipinos' strong religious beliefs.

"For a graffiti writer, I don't really paint what you would consider happy pictures," said Stormie. "I want to capture and pay homage to people's struggles and the dignity within that."

After Stormie put his tag on his mural, dekArt and graffiti enthusiasts bombed (graffiti term for painted) the pristine white makeshift walls at the event to their hearts content with the music of Nyco Maca, DJ Mulan and DJ Ali Nepumuceno in the background.

Great masters are sneaker-wearing thrashers

Royal Elastics proved its legitimacy as an authentic streetwear brand by finding fresh ways to promote and generate a greater awareness of the amazing talent that exists in the graffiti universe through dekArt 2007, where the canvases are skateboard decks and the Great Masters are sneaker-wearing thrashers.

Royal Elastics is a pioneer in the laceless sneakers industry. It's the shoe of choice for many street and graffiti artists such as SheOne, 7th Letter Crew and Stormie Mills. It also has collaborations with the Beastie Boys for XLarge and Gwen Stefani for L.A.M.B. Royal Elastics is available at SM Mall of Asia and Trinoma. For more information visit http://www.royalelastics.tv

The ONLY holiday shopping event you need to catch!

NOV 21-25
DEC 21-23
WORLD TRADE CENTER
METRO MANILA

NOEL "the discovery bazaar"

Christmas @2007 shop expo

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL EVENTS:
- The Sweet Life segment by Ms. Lucy Torres-Gomez
- QTV 11's Moms Lani Mercado, Manilyn Reynes & Sherilyn Reyes
- Barangay LS Band Performance
- Celebrity Auction by GMA Artists
- Fashion Show by Abbylyn
- Performance by Up with People
- Entertainment numbers and autograph signing by GMA Celebrities
- Century Tuna Rich Flavors of Health Culinary Tour
- Cooking Demo by Kusina Argentina

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

TEL 6870654 TELEFAX 6870604

PRESENTED BY GMA
CO-PRESENTED BY SEAIR OFFICIAL AIRLINE
ON THE BENEFIT OF GMA

Preview Tefal MAXFACTOR PRINCESS Rowenta CENTREX

acer

Acer recommends Windows Vista® Home Premium.

Limitless Potential
for a Limited Time

Enjoy the promise of boundless productivity when you buy limited edition Aspire models --- the Aspire M5100 desktop and Aspire 4720-1A1G12Mi laptop. Equipped with the latest technologies at an affordable price, expect more value-for-money performance --- anytime, anywhere.

Aspire M5100
SRP: 35,900.00 (2,991.67/mo. x 12mos.)
• AMD Athlon 64 X2 5600+940, (2.8GHz) • Genuine Microsoft® Windows Vista® Home Premium • AMD 690G + AMD SB600 chipset • 1x 1GB DDR2 667MHz/160GB SATA II HDD 7200rpm • DVD-SuperMulti Optical Drive • with Multi-Card Reader • with 128MB VGA Card • Acer 19" LCD Monitor (WideScreen) • with External Speakers • USB Keyboard and USB Optical Mouse • with Acer Empowering Technology • One (1) year warranty on parts and labor

Aspire 4720-1A1G12Mi
SRP: 44,900.00 (3,741.67/mo.x12months)
• Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Processor Technology, Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor T5250, (1.5GHz, 2MB L2 Cache, 667MHz FSB), Mobile Intel® 965GM Express Chipset, Built-in Intel® PRO/Wireless 3945BG (802.11 a/b/g) • Linux Operating System • 1GB DDR2/120GB SATA HDD (Extended Power) • 14.1" WXGA TFT CrystalBrite LCD (1280x800 pixel resolution) • Built-in New Acer CrystalEye Webcam supporting Acer PrimaLite Technology • Built-in DVD SuperMulti Drive • Built-in 5-in-1 Card Reader

*See flyers for full model line-up, and specifications

The above models, prices, specifications and images are subject to change without prior notice. Acer holds no responsibility for errors in typography or photography. Performance may vary depending on the system configuration and software applications used

Avail of these limited edition Aspire products only from the following Acer Premier Partners
Complink [illegible] Silicon Valley [illegible] Villman [illegible]

0% interest
on featured Acer products
until December 31, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5184 Series of 2007.

0% is available only if monthly bills are paid in full.

Boost after sales support for the Acer Notebooks and Desktops with the Acer SuperCare Extended Warranty. Uplift to a total of 3 years warranty coverage. A small investment for your absolute peace of mind

Service 554-1841 • Product 815-3388

©2006 Acer, Inc. All rights reserved. Acer is a registered trademark of Acer Inc. Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Centrino Logo, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Logo, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel Inside Logo, Intel Viiv, Intel vPro, Itanium, Itanium Inside, Pentium, Pentium Inside, Xeon, and Xeon Inside are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Microsoft, Windows and Windows NT are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. All software bundled with Acer computer systems, including operating systems, are registered. "Memory Stick" is a trademark of Sony Corporation. Other product brand names and companies mentioned are trademarks of their respective companies.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Changyu Red Wines
TSINGTAO BEER
Merry Christmas
JUSTIC CORPORATION
Tel: 241 5237 • 242 2048 to 49

Akon in Manila

BE AMONG THOSE WHO GET THE CHANCE to see one of the most popular acts in the local industry today. Dance to Akon's songs and groove to his beats as he holds his concert here in the Philippines on Nov. 29 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Aliaune Damala Bouga Time Puru Nacka Lu Lu Lu Badara Akon Thiam, also known as Akon, is the Senegalese-American hip-hop and RnB singer, songwriter and record producer who grew up in New Jersey and was seemingly headed for a doomed life when he got involved in drug distribution and armed robbery at a young age.

Sentenced to spend time in jail, he used this time to write songs, a passion influenced by his jazz percussionist father, Mor Thiam. The songs made their way to SRC/Universal, and in June 2004, Akon's debut album, "Trouble," was released. The artist mixed his West African lyrics with the sounds of the South and the East Coast, a hybrid of musical flavors that soon became a hit everywhere.

"Trouble" easily became No. 1 in the UK charts. The first single, "Locked Up," inspired by his real-life experience in jail for three years, cracked the top 10 in the US and the top five in the UK. "Lonely," another single from the album, was released in 2005 and reached the top five on the Billboard Hot 100.

Akon released his second album, Konvicted in 2006. It took only six weeks for it to sell over three million copies worldwide, and another week before it was declared and certified as a platinum bestseller. After only 16 weeks on the music stalls, Akon's second album was awarded double-platinum bestseller.

Akon's rise to fame can only be attributed to the songs he makes. His single, "Smack That," featuring Eminem, not only sat on the No. 2 spot for five consecutive weeks in the Billboard Hot 100 but was also nominated for Best Rap/Sung Collaboration at the 49th Annual Grammy Awards in 2006.

His second and third singles, "I Wanna Love You" and "Don't Matter," also got number one spots in the Billboard Hot 100. And, aside from the Grammys, Akon has been nominated for other music awards like the MTV Video Music Award and World Music Award. Numerous best-selling artists have collaborated with him, including Snoop Dogg, Chamillionaire, Gwen Stefani, Eminem and Young Jeezy.

Tickets to Akon's Araneta Coliseum concert are available at all SM Ticketnet Outlets. Call 9115555 or 3742222.

KID AT HEART. Akon arrives at the Nickelodeon's 20th Annual Kids' Choice Awards.

SLEEK AND STYLISH. Posing for the camera at the MTV Video Music Awards

Foundation for and by women

THE RUSTAN'S ESSENSES FOUNDATION is a non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to address women's issues.

Since its launch, the foundation has provided grants for Ballet Philippines, livelihood assistance for the women of Payatas, Mowelfund and other grassroots projects. By participating in socioeconomic projects, Rustan's Essenses Foundation contributes toward the amelioration of the status of women in the Philippines.

For every P500 purchase at Rustan's Essenses and its cosmetics and toiletries section, P1 goes to the Essenses Foundation which directly benefits women-oriented programs.

Essenses is a working foundation composed of dedicated and accomplished women who have steered the foundation to a variety of causes, ranging from the treatment of cancer patients to organizing feel-good workshops for cancer survivors, from assisting livelihood projects to the printing and distribution of a primer on women's rights, as well as setting up projects in education and the arts.

The board of trustees of the Essenses Foundation includes Margie Moran-Floirendo, Romina Urra-Gonzalez, Monica Prieto -Teodoro, Teresa Alindogan, Katrina Goulbourn-Feist, Chiqui Roa-Puno, Kathleen Lior-Liechtenstein, Marina Tantoco, Catherine Tantoco, Rhoda Campos-Aldanese, Luisa Lorenzo, Angelita Ramos, Ma. Carmen Soriano, Lorna Patajo-Kapunan and Gemma Cruz-Araneta. The foundation was organized by women, is led by women, for the positive advancement of women.

Refer friends, win gift checks

REGALOSERVICE.COM CELEBRATES ITS first anniversary with the True Friends Referral Promo, where subscribers can get the chance to earn points that can be converted to gift checks.

Just refer your friends to RegaloService.com so they, too, can enjoy the fun of shopping online. Simply visit www.RegaloService.com and all registered subscribers as of September 30 will automatically get a chance to earn points that can give them instant gift checks.

Go to the referral page and indicate in the boxes provided your friends' names and contact details. Each valid referral (if information is complete and names aren't fictitious) earns one point, and RegaloService.com will confirm the referral by sending an acknowledgement e-mail. The more points you get, the higher the value of your gift check!

RegaloService.com recently won the Best ICT Practice Award from the Philippines given by the Apec Digital Opportunity Center (ADOC) in Taipei, Taiwan, in July 2007. The award was given to the company for upholding ADOC's aim of advocating "the use of Internet and e-commerce through business development" in the Asia-Pacific region.

Visit RegaloService.com:

The new Nokia N95 8GB.
The [illegible] device
taken to the next level.

The new Nokia N95 8GB boasts of a bigger 8GB internal memory, a wider 2.8" QVGA screen, a 5 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics, DVD-grade videos, the Nokia Video Center and more. The [illegible] device just got all beefed up.

3G MOBILE BROADBAND HSDPA WiFi™ Carl Zeiss Optics

It's what [illegible] have become.

Copyright © Nokia 2007. All rights reserved. Nokia, Nseries, N95 8GB are trademarks or registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation. Other products and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks or tradenames of their respective owners.

The availability of particular products and services may vary by region. Check with the Nokia dealer nearest to you. Operations, services and some features may be dependent on the network and/or SIM card, as well as on the compatibility of the device used and the content formats supported. Some services are subject to a separate charge. For more information, contact your service provider. Specifications are subject to change without notice. Copyright protections may prevent some images, music, and other content from being copied, modified or transferred.

Available at the following Nokia Stores nationwide: Greenbelt 1, Glorietta Digital Xchange, Tomas Morato, Festival Mall, SM City North Edsa, Gaisano Davao, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM Davao, Tacloban City, Lim Ket Kai Center CDO, Alabang Town Center, Mall of Asia, Podium, Greenhills, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, SM Bacolod, Rockwell, Bonifacio High Street, Trinoma, Dagupan, SM Batangas, SM Pampanga

Make sure your new Nokia Multimedia Computer is protected by a 12-month warranty on parts and services from Nokia Care. Buy only at authorized Nokia retailers.
Visit www.nokia.com.ph to check the retail store nearest you. For more information, text NOKIA PHONE N95 8GB to 2910. P2.50 for Smart and Globe subscribers, P2.00 for Sun subscribers

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Santa's brother comes to town

'Fred Claus' throws comic light on Santa Claus' secret life- -his sibling rivalry with hi older brother

WISDOM, IT IS SAID, often emanates from the mouth of babes. Just trace the origins of "Fred Claus," the new family comedy starring Paul Giamatti and Vince Vaughn.

"I had the idea for this tale because one night I was putting my daughter to bed and was telling her a Christmas story," said producer Jessie Nelson, who first developed the story for "Fred Claus."

"And then, suddenly, she asked me, 'Does Santa Claus have a family?' And I thought that was such a brilliant question. He must have parents, and, also, if he has a sibling, I thought how hard it must be for that person to compete with this perfect, jolly, all-giving brother!"

Struck by the potential for a tale of sibling rivalry, Nelson imagined Santa as the younger of two brothers—the saintly Nicholas—who turns up one day and forces his older brother, Fred, out of the family limelight.

"What would Santa's brother feel like?" said producer Joel Silver, the man behind the blockbuster "Matrix," "Die Hard" and "Lethal Weapon" franchises ("Fred Claus" is his 50th film).

"Nicholas can do no wrong. Fred, his brother, is a 'repo man' in Chicago, where he takes things from people, as opposed to giving."

While Santa is known throughout the world under various names—Father Christmas, Pap Noel, Banna Natale, St. Basil—"Fred Claus" introduces the world to Santa's little-known older brother, who is his polar opposite.

Fred, in fact, is something of a rogue. He cannot commit to his girlfriend and blows the best job he could get by pilfering the objects he repossesses. Finally, when his dirty dealing lands him in jail, his brother comes to his rescue. Nicholas agrees to pay his elder brother's bail on one condition: that Fred come to the North Pole and work off his debt by making toys.

There is always one family member that can turn any gathering into total chaos, but in his journey, Fred also learns the value of family and the true spirit of Christmas.

"Fred goes to the North Pole to make his

SANTA'S/F2

The power to make a difference lies in all of us.

By becoming a
Kumon instructor
you have the
opportunity to
change our
country.

Kumon's unique approach to learning has helped change the lives of children around the world. Committed to developing our children, our instructors have become modern-day heroes in their own right. Through their tireless dedication, they have become champions whom we can learn a lot from.

Today, there are over 170 Kumon Centers nationwide nurturing over 30,000 students. But even as the number of centers continues to increase, there is always a need for more individuals willing to nurture children with Life Skills. By fostering children into sound and capable people, we are working toward Nation-Building through Education.

To become a Kumon Instructor in the Philippines, an applicant should have the following qualifications:
- Female
- College or university graduate
- Good Math and English skills
(an examination is given on the date of the orientation)
- 25 - 45 years old
- Drive to help children
- Excellent interpersonal skills (interview required)
- Financial stability
- Full time commitment to Kumon

We welcome franchise inquiries and applications from all over the Philippines.

Please call us at (02) 885-0226.
Outside Metro Manila, our toll-free number is 1800-1888-0231.
Email us at franchise@kumon.com.ph
Kumon Philippines Inc., 19th Floor Philamlife Tower 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
www.kumon.com.ph

KUMON

LG Electronics
BLOCKBUSTER SOUND
Crisp, clean and powerful theater sound in the comfort of your home.
₱18,999 only
Great Sound, Great Price Offer!
₱9,999 only
₱7,999 only
LG
Life's Good

HOME THEATER SYSTEM HT-902B
XTS Pro Digital Amplifier • DVD Playback • Progressive Scan • Virtual 10.1CH Sound

FB162
- Dolby Digital
- DivX
- USB Plus
- 6 Mode Equalizer
- Karaoke Function
- 2,000 PMPO

MDD62
- Dolby Digital
- DivX
- USB Plus
- 6 Mode Equalizer
- Karaoke Function
- 1,200 PMPO

LG Electronics Philippines
[illegible]

Santa's brother comes to town

From page F1

life easier," said Vince Vaughn, who plays the maverick older sibling.

"Basically, he's going in with not what you'd call the best intentions. He's reluctant, and is resentful of this world that his brother has made. But he changes when he is up there."

Nelson and Silver had envisioned Vaughn as Fred from the start, which helped shape the screenplay by Dan Fogelman, one of the writers on the Pixar smash "Cars."

"Humor comes so naturally to Vince, but he is always very human in his performances," said Silver. "He's like a kid in a grownup's body, and also a great physical counterpart to Paul Giamatti as his brother, Nicholas."

"You want someone to embody the naughtiest kid in the world," said Nelson. "This is the naughty-kid story! And there's something about Vince having retained the child inside. He is so irreverent!"

In "Fred Claus," Vaughn reunited with director David Dobkin ("Wedding Crashers") to create the most unusual family reunion ever.

"When David set out to make "Wedding Crashers," he wanted to make a coming-of-age story for 35-year-old men, and yet I think it spoke to teenagers and everybody up," said Nelson. "When we all got together to make this, we wanted to make a film that the whole family could enjoy," Silver said. "'Fred Claus' is a very funny movie but, at the same time, it's got a lot of emotion and heart. It's just great entertainment."

'North Pole'

Formerly the home of the Royal Airship Works, Cardington had taken on a chillier role—masquerading as the North Pole.

A sprawling, brightly colored town had been constructed within the vast interior of Hangar No. 2. The ground was layered with a thick carpet of fake snow, which occasionally fell from the rafters above.

"This film really makes you want to enter this world; when you see the toy store it makes you feel like you're a kid again," said Vaughn.

A series of cheerful signs and shop-fronts adorned the surrounding buildings. In a small wooden booth nested beneath a beaming street lamp lay a collection of fake newspapers. A headline said it was Christmastime—a good season for elves!

As if on cue, one of these aforementioned elves skated by, zipping along in a flurry of arms and legs. Then from behind one of the many colorful buildings came marching an army of real Lilliputian people.

"We had all sorts of ideas about how to create the elves," explained director Dobkin.

"First it was children, and then we decided that we really wanted to use 'little people.' So, we found six little people, but that wasn't enough."

Dobkin's luck changed when the casting group discovered a Lilliputian circus in Russia. "And there were 30 of them," he said. "That was a godsend; they were like these magical little creatures from about 3'11" to 4 feet tall."

Discovering a circus troupe was a real boost for the production, as not only were these performers of exactly the right height and shape, they were also acrobats, and they could ice-skate, tumble and sing.

Visual effects would come in for the head elf, Willy, played by full-size actor John Michael Higgins ("A Mighty Wind," "For Your Consideration").

"For the character of Willy we shot John Michael Higgins' head and placed it on the body of one of the little people, who's a fine actor from Spain," explained Silver.

"It's a complicated and time-consuming visual effect, but the character is very important." The importance of the character lies in his relationship with Vaughn's Fred, as it is through their unlikely friendship that the latter finally learns to appreciate both his Arctic environment, and the importance of friendship and family.

"Underneath it all, Fred's a really good person," Vaughn said. "A lot of his behavior comes from him not thinking that he's worth a lot. There's a real fear there that he'll be rejected and let down. It's not that he's cold and doesn't care about people, but he's more inclined to protect himself and not to put himself in a situation where he has to rely on someone. It's more a matter of survival for him. And the nice journey in this movie is someone learning to get past that and being open to relationships again. Thanks to Willy, Fred both changes the North Pole and is changed by it."

Vaughn was drawn to the film's easygoing tone and comedic treatment of family themes. He also looks forward to making a film that can be enjoyed by his nephew and niece. "I loved the idea of Santa having a brother called Fred, which is a very normal name," said Vaughn. "And you then have Santa, who is this mythical character. Comedy is always an over-commitment to the absurd, so it's one thing to deal with the sibling who's jealous of his successful brother, but when you make that successful person Santa Claus, it's even more exaggerated. The film gives you a romantic version of Christmas and of giving, but there's also stuff just dealing with siblings and parents, which is universal."

Giamatti as Santa

Late in the day and the temperature was falling at the North Pole. Everyone was awaiting the arrival of Nick (aka Santa) Claus. A few moments later, his arrival heralded by plenty of huffing and puffing, Santa finally appeared.

Santa was Paul Giamatti, the star of fine indie fare like "American Splendor" and "Sideways," and he struggled under the enormous weight of his hefty, red-and-white fat suit.

"It's a lot to wear one of these suits," he beamed. "In fact, it's quite intense. I thought this suit would be good for keeping me warm, but it's sweltering in here. Now will somebody help me get up? My center of gravity is totally off."

"The suit I wore in 'Planet of the Apes' was easier to deal with than this," Giamatti said in jest. "Although, I must admit, it helps in a certain way."

Santa Claus has always been represented as a little on the stout side, although in the movie the writers ascribe his weight to a mild case of neurosis.

Just as feeling very much the disregarded son afflicts Fred Claus, the younger Nick also struggles, finding it difficult to handle the pressure of running the North Pole and delivering toys all over the world in a single night.

"This Santa is a little neurotic," explained Giamatti, "a bit like an over-pressured CEO. He is compulsive. And the big joke is that Santa is trying to be jolly and happy all the time, and it slips a little once in a while. He gets tired of being relentlessly jolly!"

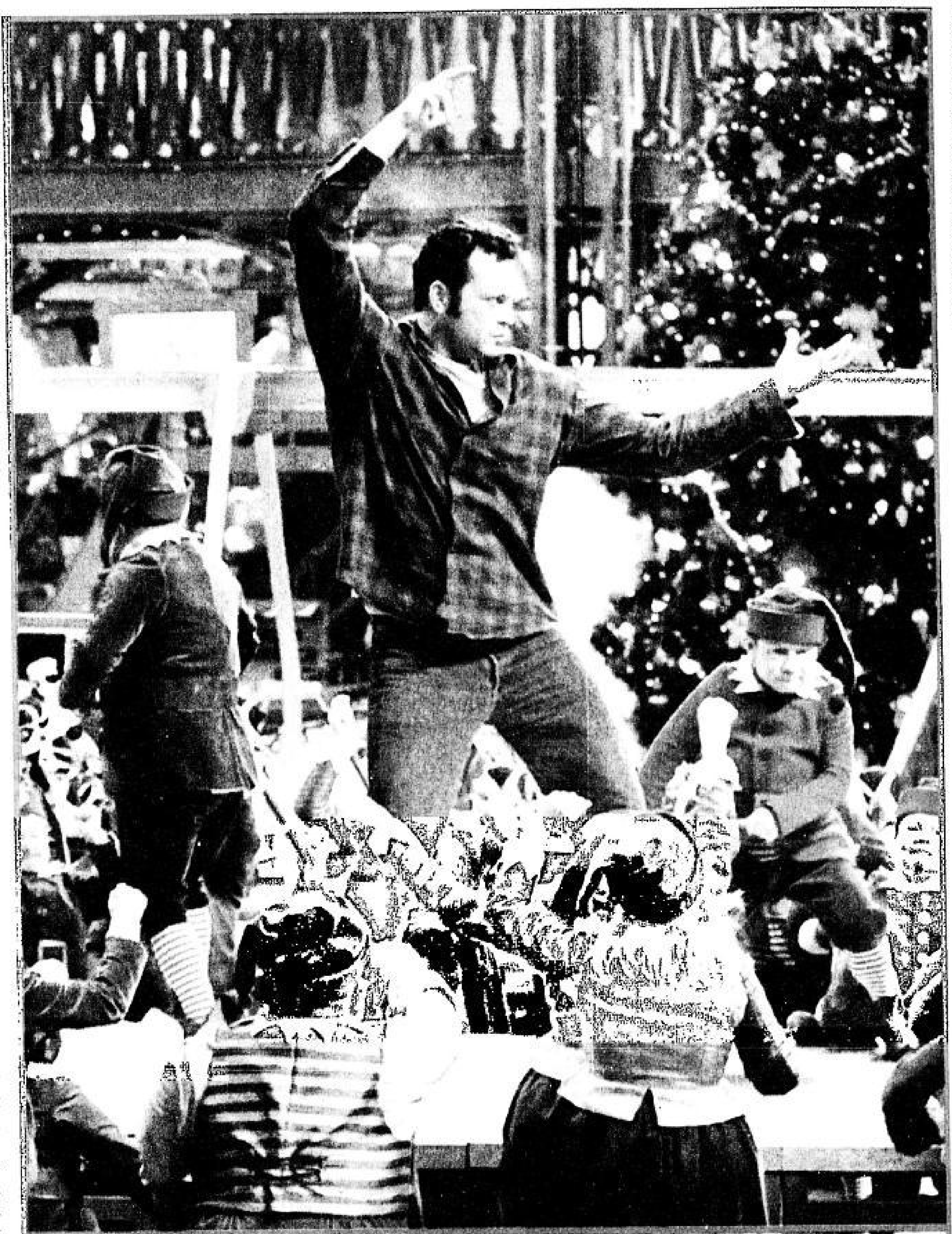
Giamatti said that while most people have a fixed idea of what Santa should look like and how he should behave, the enjoyable part of his character lies in the fact that he has his own problems.

"Santa has something to learn here, too," said the actor, "and I think this story has come up with something that really hasn't been done before. Santa has this very black or white morality, and he's a bit rigid: Everyone's either naughty or nice. So, he does get to change a little bit."

With cracks appearing in Santa's jolly veneer, Giamatti said that he and Vaughn had to rein in their humor every once in a while.

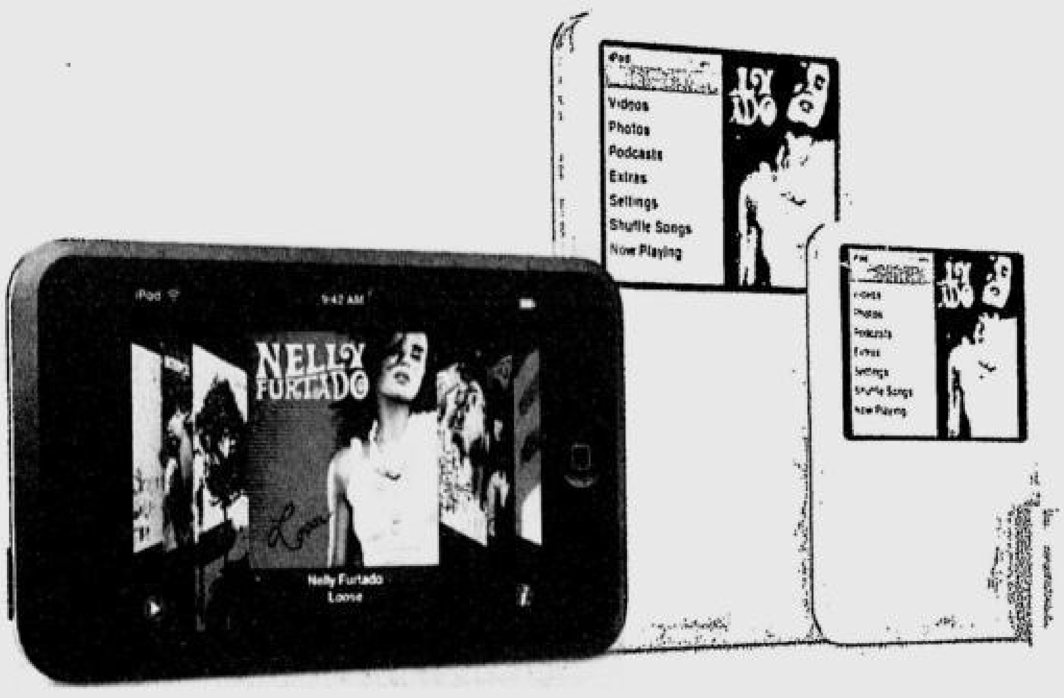
And as to whether his own son, Samuel, was pleased to find that his own father was playing Santa, Giamatti just laughed.

"My son's six now, and while I think he pretty much gets what I do, I think he found me playing Santa pretty weird, because I am rather fat in this suit! When he came on set, he just kept punching me in the stomach and kicking me in the behind!"



The filmmakers had envisioned Vaughn as Fred from the start; a kid in a grown-up's body

A VERY UNUSUAL family reunion. Scenes from "Fred Clause"



LOVING all things Macintosh

Confessions of a Mac-obsessed teen

Password
Serena Gelb

The new iPod is the Rolls Royce of MP3 players

THIS WEEK, I WANT TO CELEBRATE Apple and write about all things Mac and my favorite new gadget, the iPod Nano. Before I begin, I have to make a confession: I am an Apple zealot.

I love all things Macintosh. And here are the reasons why. I love the sleek, elegant utterly user-friendly designs of their products.

Their computers come in white, black and silver, and their iPods in even more trendy, fun colors such a sports-car red and jet-engine blue—to appeal to the younger crowd and the young at heart.

I love how easy it is to go to the iTunes store in the web and download the latest episodes of "Grey's Anatomy," without even waiting for the show to air in the Philippines. Then I watch it in my own personal handy dandy pocket-size iPod anywhere I please—in the car, in the dental clinic, in the airport…

For my computer, I love the latest Leopard OSX (Computer operating system), with its some 200 new features. It is so simple and easy to use, and with new Apps like Time Machine, I don't even have to worry about losing a single file again!

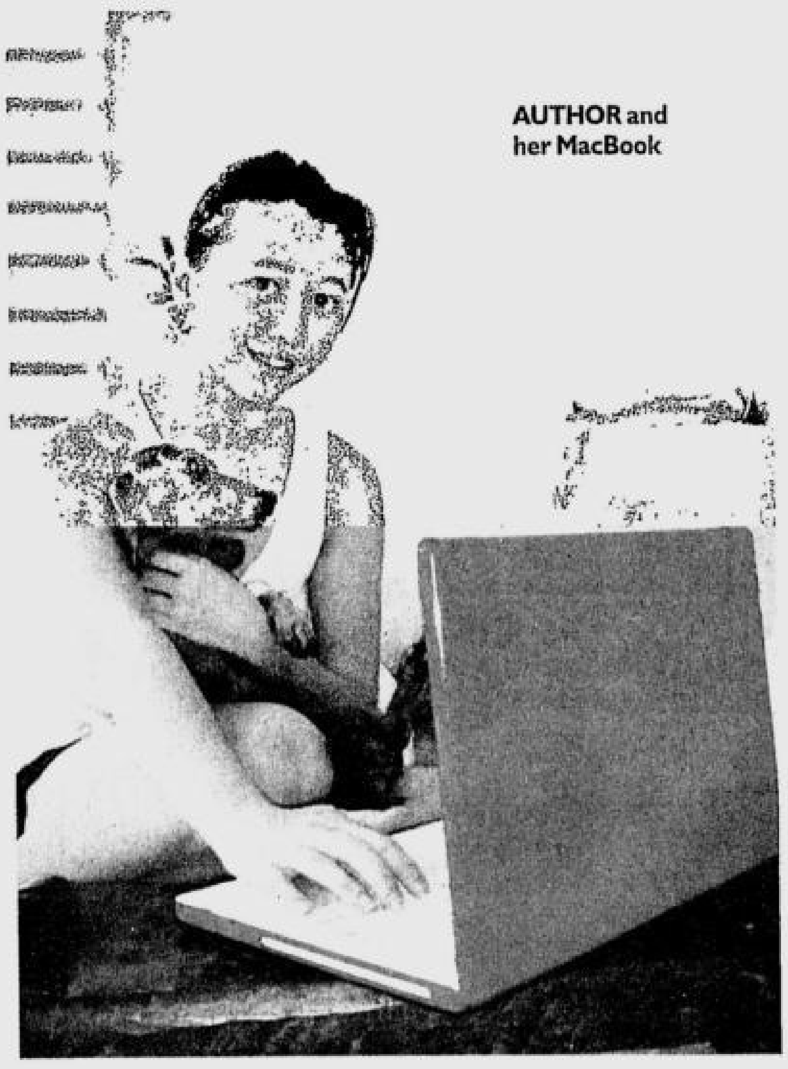
I am keen with keeping in touch with my friends through the web. Now when I e-mail them, through "Mail," I can easily coordinate all of my separate e-mail accounts in one simple program, and send my friends colorful messages using the cool, free stationary templates.

Using the iChat application, I can actually hear and see them on screen live and it's all for free. I can also share files, movies, photos and music with them with just a click of a button.

Photobooth is another of my favorite programs. It lets me take wacky pictures with strange but fun filters, so my images are crazily distorted, like I'm in a Funhouse.

That's just the fun stuff. Apple helps me with my more serious endeavors, as well, such as my daily schoolwork.

MANNA for MacJunkies



AUTHOR and her MacBook

Like PCs, Macs have a Microsoft Office package that comes with all the programs you need for your school or office: Word, Powerpoint, Excel, etc.

Unlike some of my friends, whose computers often get viruses or "crash" for no apparent reason while they're doing homework projects, I can rely on my handy but dandy Macbook. Apples are not as susceptible to viruses as ordinary PCs.

I wasn't born a Mac girl. My first computer ever was a Windows—a Compaq Desktop—and it was not a good experience. Within the first few months, it had already contracted several viruses and even had to be replaced!

At my elementary school, they were using Apple Macintoshes, and I quickly became hooked. Soon after, my parents also discovered the simplicity and ease of Apple products. Ever since then, we have been an Apple family all the way.

We await each revolutionary new design such as iPods, MacBooks, iPhones! My dad attends the annual San Francisco MacWorld convention, which showcases Apples latest inventions.

Last summer, Steve Jobs came out with the iPhone. Its revolutionary design linked the iPod with the phone and computer.

That day, Jobs expunged the word "computer" from the Macintosh name, expanding Mac application to wider possibilities. We, Apple addicts, were all at our seat's edge, wondering, what's next for Mac?

Luckily for us the MacJunkies, the guys at Apple outdid themselves again! Apple reinvented one of its oldest and most popular designs: the iPod!

This season, the iPod comes in five great colors—sleek,silver, sophisticated black, frosty green, metallic blue, and a special, limited-edition red version. Proceeds will be used for AIDS awareness campaign in Africa.

The iPod Nano is truly a remarkable device. As the renowned science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke once said, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." He could have been talking about the iPod.

Its slim 0.25-inch design can hold up to 8GB of games, music and even videos. That's right. It's basically and quite literally a pocket sized TV-VCR.

It also has extremely high-resolution images. From my iPod, I have viewed episodes of "Desperate Housewives," "Grey's Anatomy," "House" and other top-rated shows sans the irritating commercials. Cool.

Lucky for me, my MacDad gave me with the latest sleek black iPod for my birthday!

I also play games on my iPod. I simply download them right off the iTunes store. I, myself, enjoy playing classic favorites like Tetris and Pac-Man. For you scholarly types, you can download an SAT prep to study on the go.

Because of its slim new design, it slips handily into jean pockets, jogging outfits, even inside a tiny evening bag, for a night out.

I travel with my iPod Nano everywhere: in cars, planes, malls, restaurants, to the beach, and even in school (but don't tell anybody!).

The new iPod is the Rolls Royce of MP3 players. Or considering its compact size maybe it would be more appropriate to compare it with a snazzy, sporty BMW.

Step into flip-flop fashion

FLOJOS CALIFORNIA, THE LATEST in trendy sandals and casual flip-flops, has now arrived in the Philippines, ready to offer a wide selection of fashionable sandals and A-class footwear fit for every occasion.

Flojos (pronounced flo-hos; a Spanish word that translates to "kick back" in English) is an American sandal brand since 1979. It offers colorful and exceptional choices.

For women, it offers casual beach footwear to the more formal line of sandals for dressier occasions. If flats have become too routine, the brand also offers heels and platform bottoms.

For young adults used to living life on the fast track, Flojos offers comfortable styles suited for work as well as a night of dancing and parties.

The men's line offers a variety of sandals to go with both smart casual events.

The kids' footwear offers leather, rubber, canvass and nylon in colorful styles.

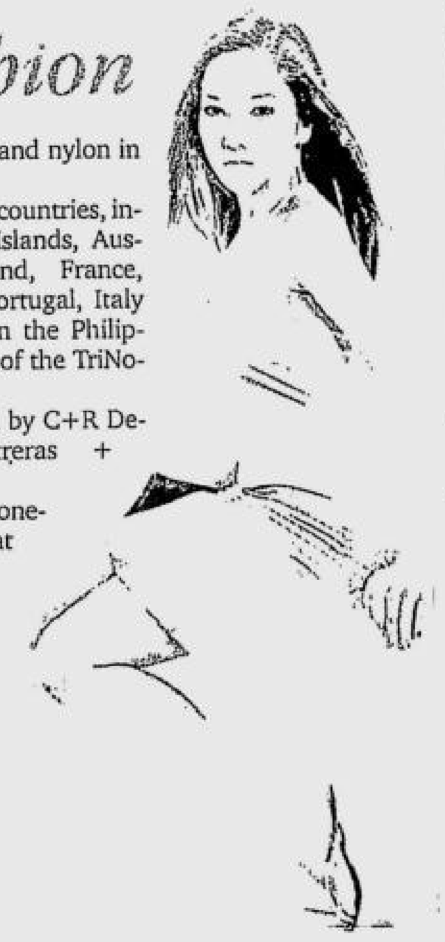
Flojos is present in 20 countries, including the Hawaiian Islands, Australia, Canada, England, France, Japan, Spain, Guam, Portugal, Italy and Dubai. It is now in the Philippines—at the 2nd level of the TriNoma Mall.

The store is designed by C+R Design Partners (Contreras + Restubog), Inc.

The store reflects the one-of-a-kind, classy vibe that the Flojos footwear brings.

Flojos is also available at Landmark-TriNoma.

Call 818-7138.



How far can your AIG Credit Card take you?

Celebrate the holidays and enjoy special treats when you use your AIG Credit Card.

Burgoo
FREE Burgoo Kebabs
For a minimum order of any entree with the same or higher value
Valid until December 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2915, Series of 2007

GUMBO
FREE Grilled Chicken Limone
For a minimum order of any entree with the same or higher value
Valid until December 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2915, Series of 2007

Gerry's Grill
FREE Sisig
For a minimum purchase of Php750
or
FREE Leche Flan
For 2 for a minimum purchase of Php500
Valid until January 31, 2008
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5352, Series of 2007

Tender Bob's
FREE Rocky Road or Cookies & Cream or Mango Caramel Ice Cream
For a minimum purchase of Php750
• Choice of either one of three flavors
Valid until February 15, 2008
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5376, Series of 2007

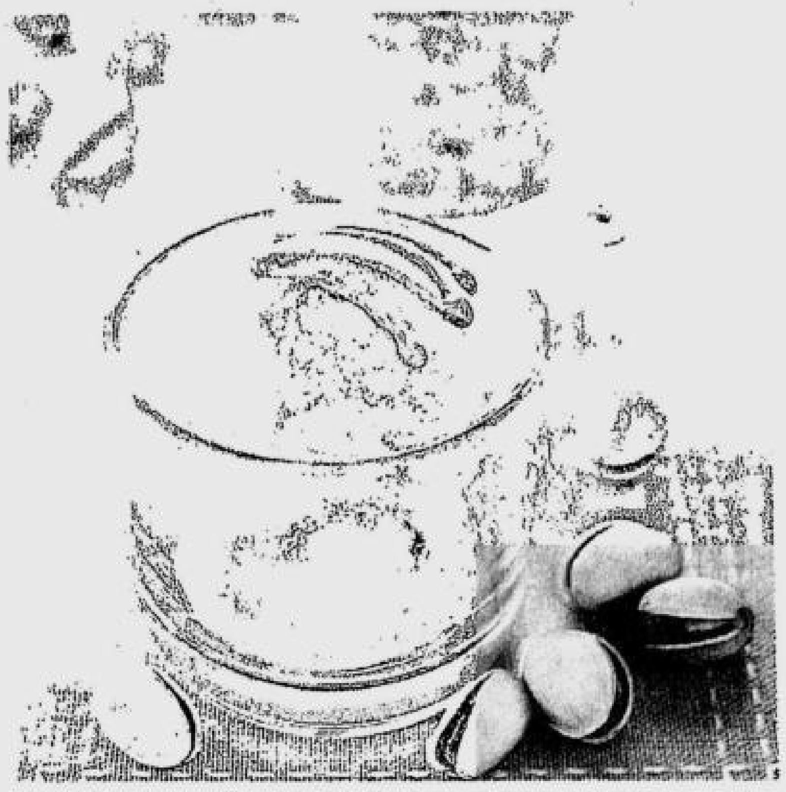
It's gotta be Shakey's
FREE Pizza
Upon purchase of either Large or Party, Thin or Thick Crust Pizza and a Pitcher of Iced Tea or Lemonade
• Free pizza is of the same size and crust of pizza purchase
• Choice of Hawaiian Delight or Pepperoni
Valid until December 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4272, Series of 2007.

Call 683-8888 for details.

See tent cards for details.

AIG PhilAm

MASCARPONE Crumble is a gourmet treat.



PURE Pistachio goodness

Gelato goes Pinoy

Angelati Italia seeks to make a truly Italian ice cream but with a Filipino twist

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

THERE ARE SOME TYPES OF food that have to be savored in a particular place in order to maximize the experience, say Viennese coffee in Vienna, macaroons in Paris, pho noodles in Vietnam, and gelato in Italy.

However, since few people have the luxury of time and money to jet off around the world to sample regional delicacies, many restaurants attempt to bring international cuisine to their countries.

Gelato, or Italian ice cream, has long been considered as one of that country's specialties (right up there with pizza and pasta). While there are many gelato shops in the Philippines, few can claim that they can replicate the creamy texture and complex burst of flavors that real Italian gelato promises. Many locally available brands are either too airy or too runny and taste more like Pinoy *sorbetes* than Italian gelato.

Enter Angelati Italia, the brainchild of sisters Marilyn and Gwen Dee. Inspired by their travels around Italy, the sisters decided to set up their own brand of creamy, flavorful gelato and bring it to the Philippines. The Dees flew to Italy to take a crash course in gelato-making under the tutelage of a gelateria owner. Their studies even covered the history of producing the frozen treat. Thus, Angelati Italia, a play on "angel" and "gelati" (plural of gelato), was born.

Filipino taste

The brand has a wide variety of flavors. Aside from traditional flavors such as vanilla, raspberry, strawberry and chocolate, there are unusual but fun flavors that basically suit Filipino taste buds. Fans of Jonas' Banana Choco Peanut Shake in Boracay will love Angelati Italia's Choco Banana Peanut Butter flavor, while the children-at-heart will have fun digging out the sweet bits from Scoop-a-Snickers and Chocolate and Cereals variants. You may also like the Choco Nutella and Hazelnut flavors for a jolt of chocolate.

If your tastes lie on the gourmet side, get yourself a pint (or a gallon) of Mascarpone Crumble, a mildly sweet offering that mimics the smooth consistency of the cheese, or Heavenly Tiramisu, which tastes just like the bittersweet dessert it is named after. Straciatella, or Italian chocolate chips, balances the simplicity of vanilla with dark mounds of chocolate.

Angelati Italia also has an impressive array of fruit-based flavors. Blueberry Cheesecake, for instance, folds in juicy berries with sizable chunks of cheesecake, while Kibana (or Kiwi Banana) is a surprising combination of tart and mellow flavors. Cherry Vanilla and Crème Brûlée are perfect for long bonding sessions with friends.

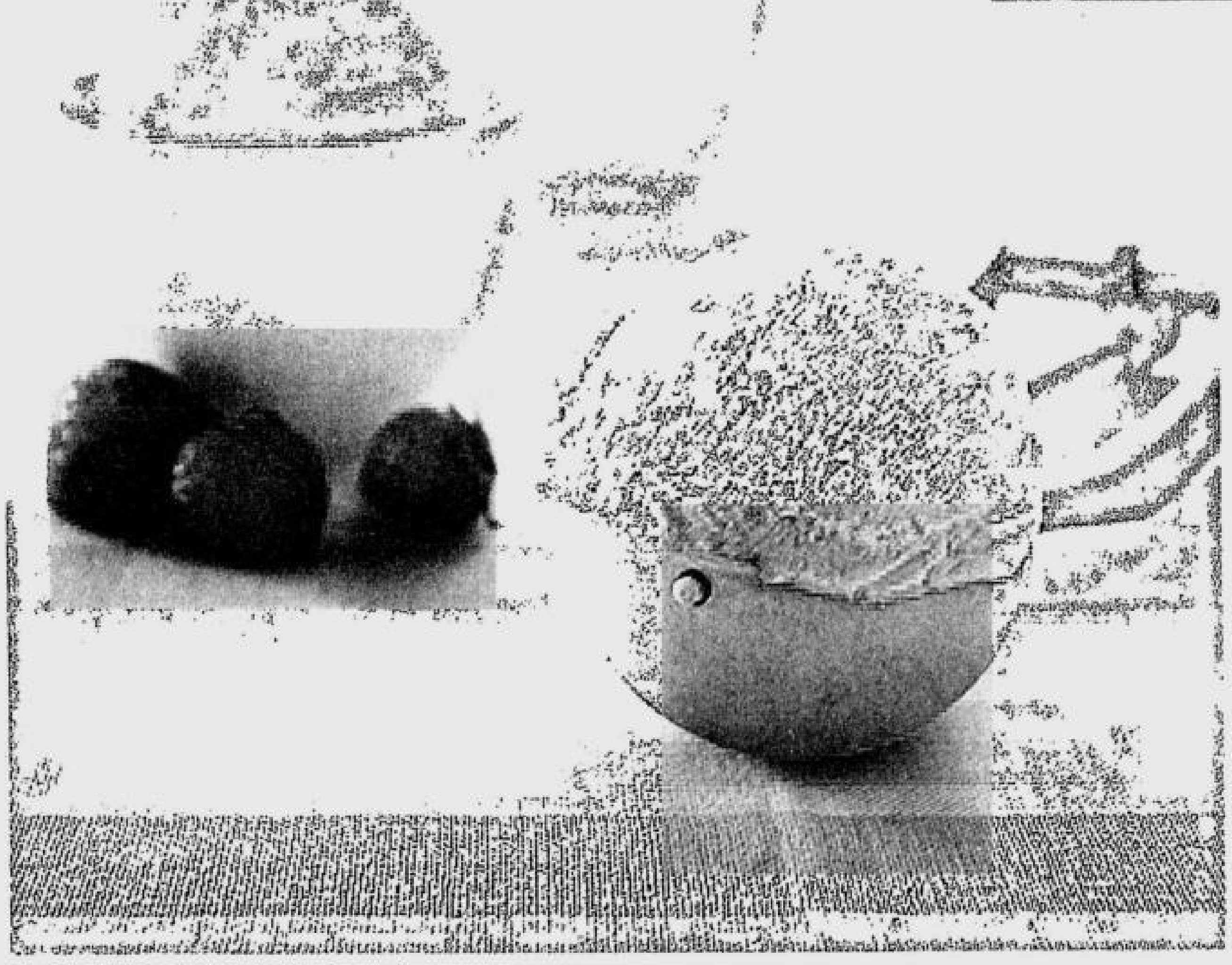
The price of good gelato doesn't come cheap (a liter of Angelati Italia will set you back by P450-P550, depending on the flavor), but you can be sure the brand doesn't scrimp on quality.

For special occasions or as a gift for the holidays, don't break out the generic ice cream. For a truly heavenly experience, grab yourself a pint of Angelati Italia.

Contact Angelati Italia at 0917-8990110 or call 5622217. You may also e-mail dee.gwen@gmail.com

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

A RAINBOW of fruit flavors



MOUTH-WATERING scoops of strawberry

HEAVENLY Tiramisu

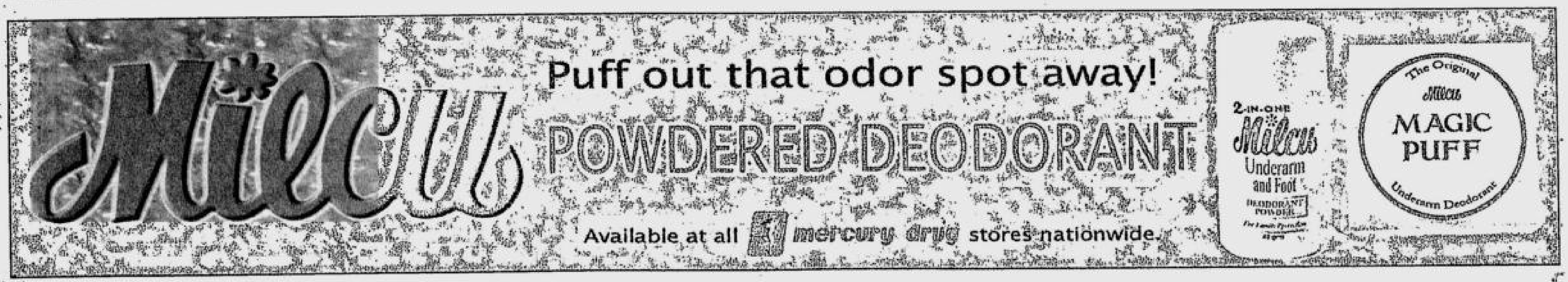
Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

INSIDE
- Why Oyo Sotto is not courting Kristine /G4
- Tessa stops H'wood traffic, meets Hiro /G6



Milcu

Puff out that odor spot away!

POWDERED DEODORANT

Available at all mercury drug stores nationwide.

2-IN-ONE Milcu Underarm and Foot DEODORANT POWDER
The Original Milcu MAGIC PUFF Underarm Deodorant

PHOTO BY RODEL ROTONI

US-based Brandon Vera, 'Kamandag' fight instructor, still very Pinoy

Training Richard Gutierrez

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LIKE A TRUE PINOY, BRANDON VERA dunks his *pan de sal* in his coffee cup before wolfing it down.

The mixed martial arts specialist, who is in town to train actor Richard Gutierrez for "Kamandag," surprised the GMA 7 show's cast and crew because he speaks Tagalog and has retained very Filipino traits.

Case in point: He says that he prefers the *pan de sal* made by a small bakery in San Diego, California, to that one sold by a famous franchise because "it's not Americanized."

He has eight tattoos. "All *alibata* words: *apoy* (fire), *hangin* (wind), *bundok* (mountain), *tubig* (water), *pamilya* (family) and *Diyos* (God). I'm planning to get one more, a Philippine flag, on my right arm."

A fan of Vera's, Gutierrez had personally requested GMA 7 to hire the heavyweight as his fight instructor.

Starstruck

Fortunately, Vera's sister Michelle is a fan of Pinoy show biz. "She loves Richard," Vera relates.

Brandon was equally star-struck when he visited "Showbiz Central." He admits, "Rufa Mae Quinto was my first crush."

"He gave up a lot of jobs in the US for this one because he loves the Philippines," says Jeff Clark, Vera's manager.

It's Vera's fifth time in the country. "I have a lot of relatives here. I had my honeymoon in Bohol," he says.

He's married to another fighter, Kerry, who is featured on the Oxygen show, "Fight Girls."

The first and only Filipino in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), Vera is nicknamed "The Truth" by the US press.

First acting gig

"It's because I'm brutally frank," he points out.

"The Truth" is cast as "The Assassin" on "Kamandag"—his first acting gig.

He has taught Gutierrez muay Thai and Brazilian jiujitsu moves, such as the flying arm bar, arm drag to back take, choke hold, among others.

He describes Gutierrez as an apt student. "I was surprised. I thought I'd have a hard time, but our training went smoothly. I suppose he's as good a student as he is an actor."

up next at SM MEGAMALL

FASHION SHOW

HOLIDAY COLLECTION

Nov. 23 • Fri • 6pm

EVENT CENTER, UPPER GROUND FLOOR MEGA A

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway Ali MALL Farmers Plaza
gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway CiNEPLEX*10
gatewaycineplex10.com

COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

HITMAN 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	ENCHANTED 12:20 / 1:30 / 2:40 / 3:50 / 5:00 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:30 / 9:40	BOOGEYMAN 2 4:30 / 9:30	
GREEN PARADISE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	BEOWULF	GAMEPLAN 12:20 / 5:00 / 9:40	
ONE MORE CHANCE 12:40 / 1:15 / 3:25 / 4:00 6:10 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 9:30	NANNY DIARIES 2:00 / 7:00	SUPERBAD 2:40 / 7:20	HITMAN 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

PBA GAMES Nov. 21, Wednesday 4:50 pm PUREFOODS vs ALASKA 7:20 pm WELCOAT vs STA LUCIA	AKON - LIVE IN MANILA Nov. 29, Thursday 8pm
TEN: PIOLO PASCUAL LIVE AT THE ARANETA Nov. 30, Friday, 8pm	SKECHERS STREETDANCE BATTLE YEAR 3 Dec. 1, Saturday, 6 pm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

NOW SHOWING

BAWAL PUMASOK DITO

JIM LIBIRAN'S highly-acclaimed

Tribu

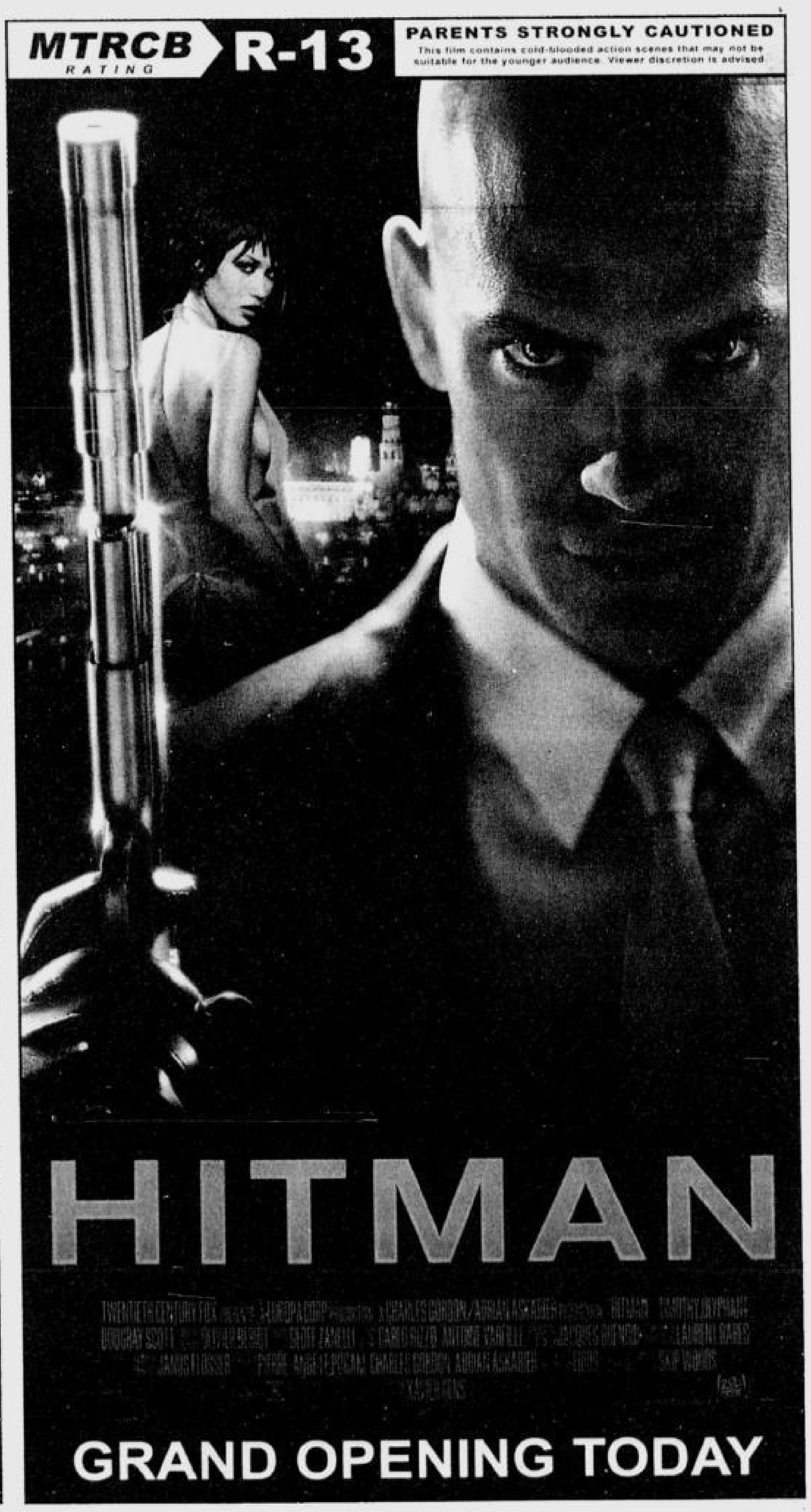
OFFICIAL SELECTION, 2007 Pusan International Festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION, 58th Berlin Intl' Film Festival - Forum on New Cinema
WINNER, Best Picture, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors CINEMANILA 2007
WINNER, Best Sound, CINEMALAYA 2007

NOVEMBER 14 to 20

indieSine

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

ONLY AT INDIESINE, ROBINSONS ERMITA



MTRCB RATING R-13

PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
This film contains cold-blooded action scenes that may not be suitable for the younger audience. Viewer discretion is advised

HITMAN

GRAND OPENING TODAY

UNDER FIRE. UNDER PRESSURE. OUT OF TIME.

THE KINGDOM

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER JAMIE FOXX
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER CHRIS COOPER
JENNIFER GARNER

FROM THE PRODUCER MICHAEL MANN
AND DIRECTOR PETER BERG

HOW DO YOU STOP AN ENEMY WHO ISN'T AFRAID TO DIE?

MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

www.the-kingdommovie.com

IN THEATERS NOV. 28

Solar Entertainment Corporation

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 130 632-9116

1 ENCHANTED • THX
2 ENCHANTED
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 BEOWULF
6 HITMAN
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 indieSine: ANIMAHENASYON ANIMATION FILMS
9 GAME PLAN
10 LIONS for LAMBS
GREEN PARADISE

NOW SHOWING

BAWAL PUMASOK DITO
Tribu

JIM LIBIRAN'S highly-acclaimed

Tribu

OFFICIAL SELECTION, 2007 Pusan International Festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION, 58th Berlin Int'l Film Festival - Forum on New Cinema
WINNER, Best Picture, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors CINEMANILA 2007
WINNER, Best Sound, CINEMALAYA 2007

NOVEMBER 14 to 20

indieSine

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

ONLY AT INDIESINE, ROBINSONS ERMITA

ERMITA
Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 indieSine: TRIBU
3 ENCHANTED
4 LUST CAUTION
GREEN PARADISE
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS
6 30 DAYS of NIGHT
7 BOOGEYMAN 2

Midtown

1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 ENCHANTED

METRO EAST
Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 GREEN PARADISE
8 GAME PLAN

NOVALICHES
Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF
GREEN PARADISE

PIONEER
Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 HITMAN

STA. ROSA
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 BALLS OF FURY
GREEN PARADISE

LIPA
Ticket Price: P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 GHOST SON / 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 ENCHANTED

DASMARIÑAS
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 GREEN PARADISE

IMUS
Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF
5 GREEN PARADISE

ANGELES
Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 HITMAN

TARLAC

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN the NIGHT
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

STARMILLS
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

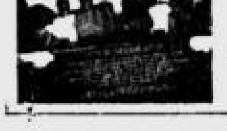
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 HITMAN
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 BEOWULF

BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 GHOST SON
6 indieSine: ISNATS

ILOILO
Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 GHOST SON
5 LUST CAUTION
6 BALLS OF FURY



NOW SHOWING

na-ISNATS na ba ang cellphone mo?

Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD indieSine showing on NOVEMBER 21 to 27

iSNATS is an action-adventure cum satiric-informative movie about a cellphone snatching incident that leads to gangster skirmishes. Comedic scenes by Rock icon (Rocksteddy) Teddy Corpuz(Sugo/Idol ko si Kap) QTV Hapinas Host Ronald "Joaqui" Tupas, Archie Adamos and veteran actor Berting Labra. Indie Actors Jourdan Sebastian and Joel Olaño lead the cast.

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTiME

VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM

Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

Watch the epic battle of legendary heroes like it has never been seen before in the newest breakthrough in Philippine cinema

BEOWULF

IN DIGITAL 3D

Experience **CLARITY** in vision and sound (with no scratches or ghosting)

Guaranteed **PERFECTION** in projection (even after several runs)

Full **IMMERSE** action with polarized 3D glasses (that you can bring home after the movie)

OPENS NOVEMBER 14 AT THE BLOCK CINEMA 1, SM CITY NORTH EDSA

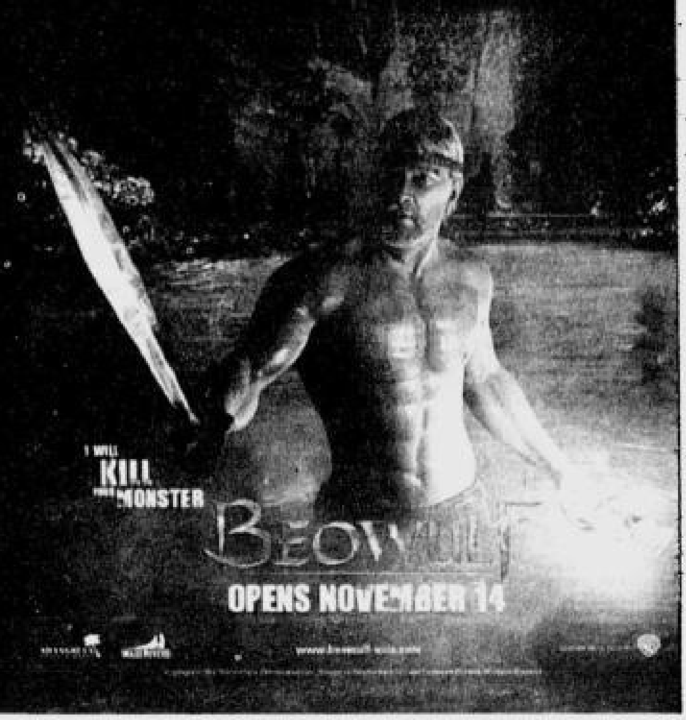
The one, only, and true digital cinema in the country today

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
P 300 (Reserved Seats)

Screening Schedule:
12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

Please call 929 5452 for inquiries.

Array's Technology Inc.



METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

BEOWULF 3D Admission Price: P400
12:30 PM • 3:00 PM • 7:00 PM • 9:30 PM
DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
11:00 AM • 5:30 PM

1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 THE GAME PLAN

PREMIERE CINEMA
ONE MORE CHANCE
CENTERSTAGE
ONE MORE CHANCE
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BEOWULF
CINEMA 2
ENCHANTED
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 BEOWULF (DIGITAL 3D)
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 HITMAN
6 RESERVED
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 ENCHANTED
9 BOOGEYMAN 2
10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 BEOWULF

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BEOWULF
4 ENCHANTED
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS
6 HITMAN
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 ONE MORE CHANCE
11 THE GAME PLAN
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 BEOWULF
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 HITMAN
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 THE GHOST SON
11 ENCHANTED
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 HITMAN
2 ENCHANTED
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 HITMAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 ENCHANTED
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
6 THE NANNY DIARIES
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 HITMAN
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE GAME PLAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7 THE NANNY DIARIES
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 BOOGEYMAN 2
10 LIONS FOR LAMBS

NOW OPEN
SM SUPERCENTER MUNTINLUPA 862 5693

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

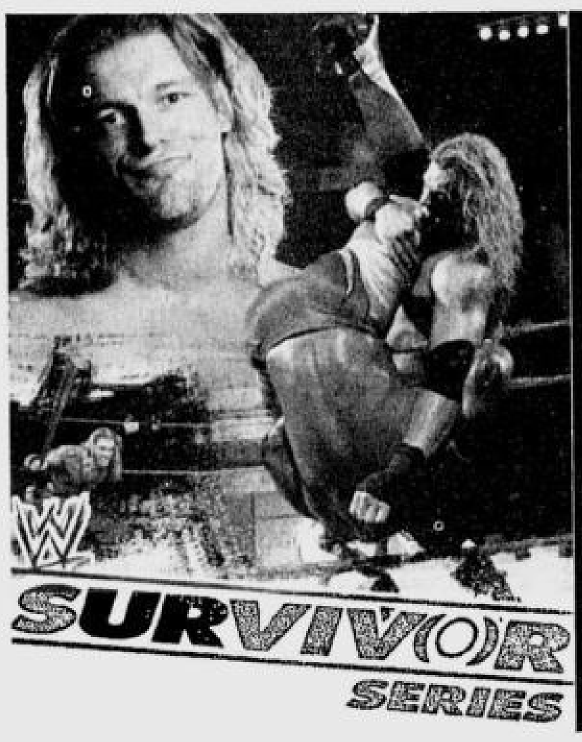
SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 ENCHANTED
6 RESERVED
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 THE GAME PLAN
11 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SPORTSTiME



Watch who will survive to the fittest in this ultmate wrestling action on the big screen

LIVE VIA SATELLITE WITH NO COMMERCIAL BREAKS

November 23 (Friday) •7:00 P.M. at these SM Cinema branches:

November 24 and 25 (Saturday and Sunday) 11:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m.

Fairview, Mall of Asia, Manila, Megamall, North EDSA, San Lazaro, Southmall, Sta. Mesa
P 150 (Guaranteed Seats)

Cebu, Pampanga, Clark
P 120 (Guaranteed Seats)

Davao
P 90 (Guaranteed Seats)

With P 20 discount OFF for students (just present valid ID)

In partnership with: SOLAR ALL ACCESS

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 THE NANNY DIARIES/ UNREST
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 ENCHANTED

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 THE GAMEP PLAN
3 ENCHANTED
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS

LUZON

NOW OPEN
SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 EL CANTANTE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 BEOWULF
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 THE GHOST SON
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340011

1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BEOWULF
4 ENCHANTED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 ENCHANTED

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 HITMAN
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 RENDITION

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 ENCHANTED
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 BEOWULF
2 WEDDING DAZE
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 UNREST
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 ENCHANTED

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 ATAUL FOR RENT
2 THE GHOST SON
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5 BEOWULF
6 EL CANTANTE
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 ENCHANTED
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 THE GHOST SON
6 ATAUL FOR RENT
7 BALLS OF FURY
8 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 BEOWULF

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

This week in show biz history: Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Freddie Mercury

DID YOU KNOW...

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS DURING the week of Nov. 18-24:

1955: RCA Records signed Elvis Presley after buying his contract from Sun Records. Elvis got a $5,000 bonus for signing.

1959: "Ben Hur," starring Charlton Heston, had its world premiere in New York.

1964: The BBC banned the Rolling Stones from its airwaves after the band arrived late for two radio shows.

1970: Jerry Lee Lewis and his cousin Myra Gale Brown were divorced in Memphis, Tennessee.

1980: Actress Mae West died at her Hollywood residence at age 87.

1991: Queen singer Freddie Mercury died of complications from AIDS at his home in London. He was 45.

1992: Spike Lee's movie "Malcolm X," starring Denzel Washington, opened nationwide.

1994: Musician David Crosby got a liver transplant.

1997: Singer Michael Hutchence of INXS hung himself with a belt in a hotel in Sydney, Australia. He was 37.

2000: Actor Michael Douglas married actress Catherine Zeta-Jones in New York.

2002: Michael Jackson dangled his baby son over a fourth-floor balcony at a hotel in Berlin for fans waiting outside.

2005: Christina Aguilera married music executive Jordan Bratman in California's Napa Valley.

AP

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

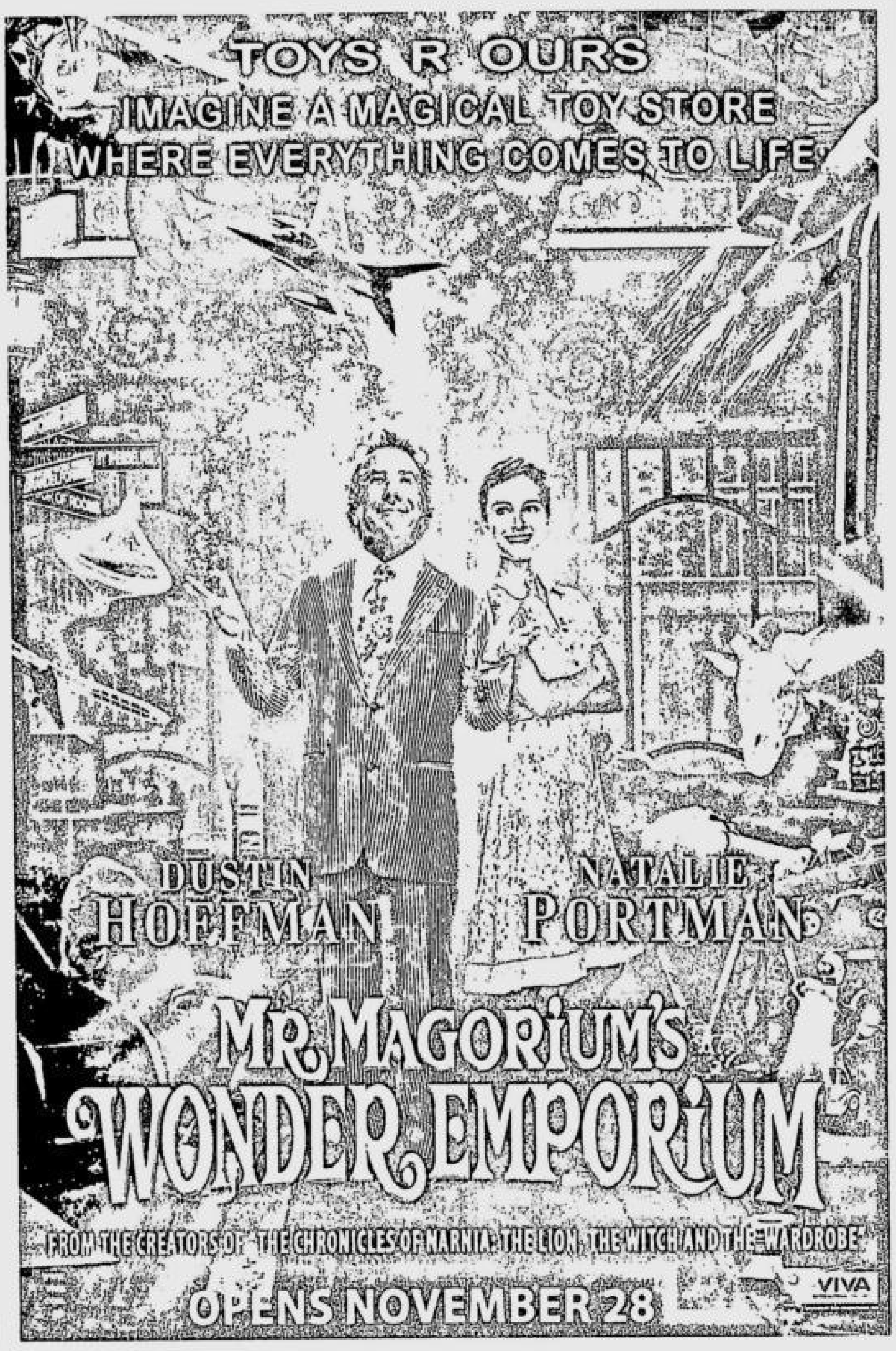
Top 10 films at the North American box office for the weekend beginning November 16

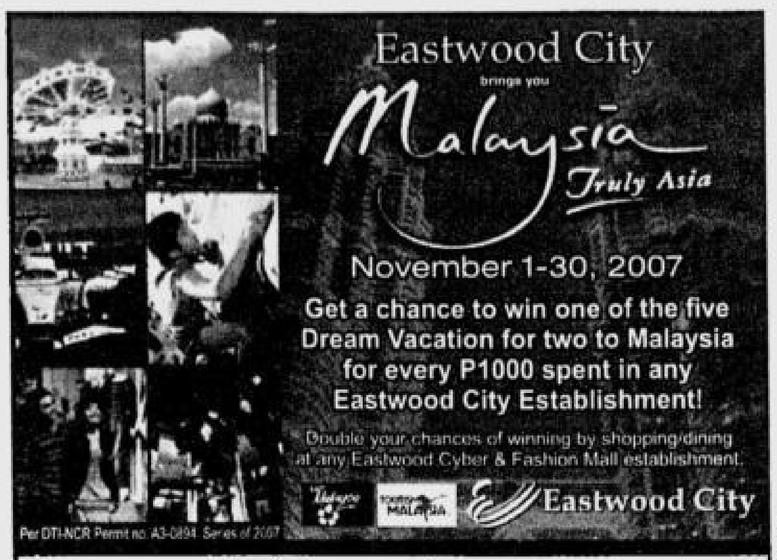
Beowulf, Paramount Pictures

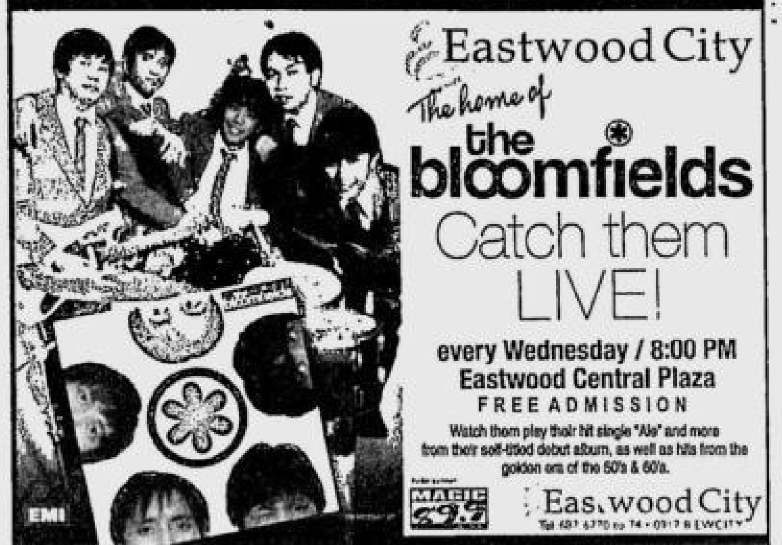
TW	LW	Title	Total gross	WR
1	☆	Beowulf	$ 28.1 mln	1
2	1	Bee Movie	$ 14.3 mln	3
3	2	American Gangster	$ 13.2 mln	3
4	3	Fred Clause	$ 12.0 mln	2
5	☆	Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium	$ 10.0 mln	1
6	5	Dan in Real Life	$ 4.5 mln	4
7	15	No Country for Old Men	$ 3.1 mln	2
8	4	Lions for Lambs	$ 2.9 mln	2
9	6	Saw IV	$ 2.3 mln	4
10	☆	Love in the Time of Cholera	$ 1.9 mln	1

TW This week
LW Last week
☆ New release
WR Weeks in release
Based on studio estimates compiled on Sunday

REUTERS


TOYS R OURS
IMAGINE A MAGICAL TOY STORE WHERE EVERYTHING COMES TO LIFE
DUSTIN HOFFMAN
NATALIE PORTMAN
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
FROM THE CREATORS OF THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
OPENS NOVEMBER 28
VIVA


Eastwood City brings you
Malaysia Truly Asia
November 1-30, 2007
Get a chance to win one of the five Dream Vacation for two to Malaysia for every P1000 spent in any Eastwood City Establishment!
Double your chances of winning by shopping/dining at any Eastwood Cyber & Fashion Mall establishment.
Eastwood City
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. A3-0894 Series of 2007


Eastwood City
The home of
the bloomfields
Catch them LIVE!
every Wednesday / 8:00 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION
Watch them play their hit single "Ale" and more from their self-titled debut album, as well as hits from the golden era of the 50's & 60's.
EMI
MAGIC 89.9
Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	BEOWULF	3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05	PG-13
2	HITMAN	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	R-13
3	ENCHANTED	2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30	PG-13
4	ONE MORE CHANCE	3:10, 5:50, 8:30,11:10	PG-13

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	THE KINGDOM	BEOWULF	FRED CLAUS	ONE MORE CHANCE			
GLORIETTA 4	FRED CLAUS	THE KINGDOM	THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	SUPER BAD	THE GAME PLAN	ONE MORE CHANCE	THE NANNY DIARIES
GREENBELT 1	ONE MORE CHANCE	BEOWULF					
GREENBELT 3	THX THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS	THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS	SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX BEOWULF	THE NANNY DIARIES	THE KINGDOM	SUPER BAD	FRED CLAUS		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	BEOWULF	SUPER BAD	ONE MORE CHANCE	BALLS OF FURY			
MARKET! MARKET!	ONE MORE CHANCE	FRED CLAUS	SUPER BAD	BEOWULF	THE KINGDOM		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	ONE MORE CHANCE	THE NANNY DIARIES	FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS	THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS	THE GAME PLAN / BOOGEYMAN 2	SUPER BAD	THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS

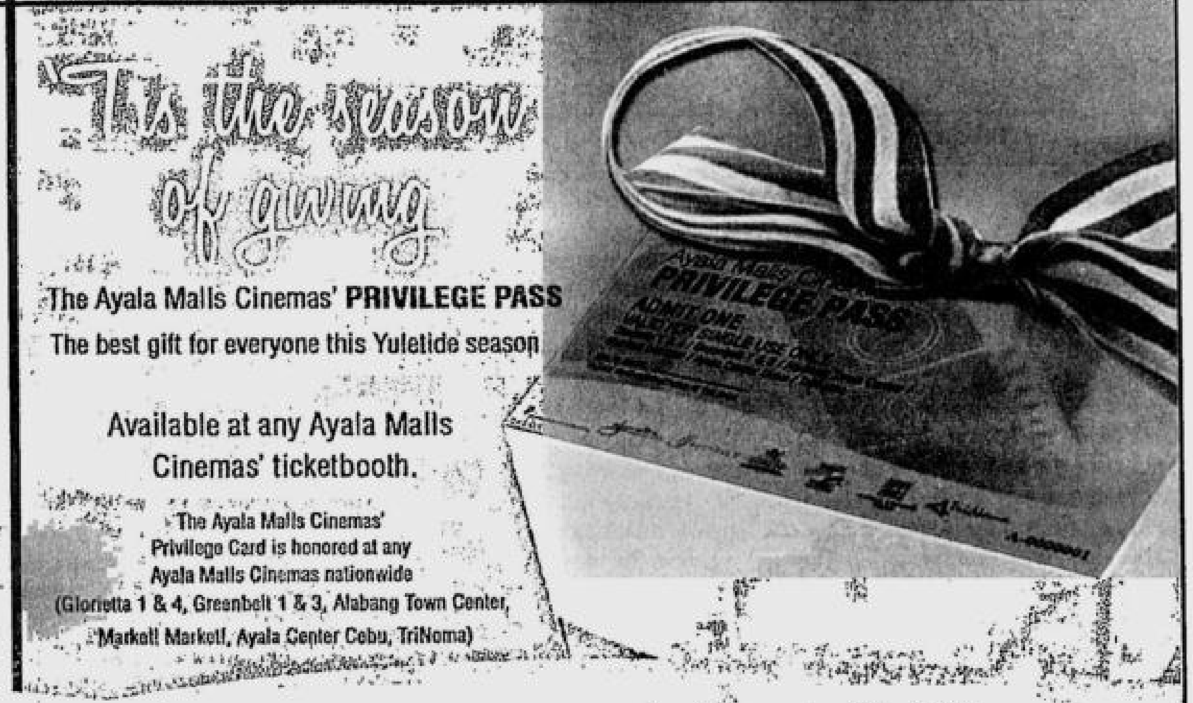
AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale feat. Phil. Jesuit Community November 24; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT	Holiday Open Concert November 24 & Dec 2; 8pm; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Seussical The Musical November 23 to 25; 11am, 3pm & 6pm; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Metrobank Car Event November 24 to 25; Activity Center, Paseos and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Lifestyle and Vanity Outlet Sale November 19 to 23; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Cherubim and Seraphim December 16; 6pm; Activity Center

Fright Before X'mas
Join Cartoon Network at the Activity Center, Market! Market! on Sat, Nov 24!
Meet a Surprise Toon Star!
Plus Fun Games & Cool Prizes!
CARTOON
CN


'Tis the season of giving
The Ayala Malls Cinemas' PRIVILEGE PASS
The best gift for everyone this Yuletide season
Available at any Ayala Malls Cinemas' ticketbooth.
The Ayala Malls Cinemas' Privilege Card is honored at any Ayala Malls Cinemas nationwide (Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3, Alabang Town Center, Market! Market!, Ayala Center Cebu, TriNoma)

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Why Oyo Sotto isn't courting Kristine Hermosa

Greatest US TV icons

NEW YORK—This is the list of "The 50 Greatest TV Icons," compiled by cable's TV Land and the writers of Entertainment Weekly magazine. It will fuel a two-hour special on the network airing Friday in the United States, as well as a feature story in the upcoming issue of Entertainment Weekly:

50) Larry Hagman; 49) Calista Flockhart; 48) Jimmy Smits; 47) Simon Cowell; 46) Lassie;

45) Sarah Michelle Gellar; 44) Susan Lucci; 43) Flip Wilson; 42) James Gandolfini; 41) Jon Stewart;

40) Sally Field; 39) Jennifer Aniston; 38) Bea Arthur; 37) George Clooney; 36) Diahann Carroll;

35) Michael J. Fox; 34) Bob Barker; 33) Ellen DeGeneres; 32) Henry Winkler; 31) Sarah Jessica Parker;

30) Alan Alda; 29) John Ritter; 28) Howard Cosell; 27) Regis Philbin; 26) Farrah Fawcett;

25) Heather Locklear; 24) Michael Landon; 23) Barbara Walters; 22) Milton Berle; 21) Kermit;

20) Carroll O'Connor; 19) Andy Griffith; 18) William Shatner; 17) Bob Newhart; 16) David Letterman;

15) "Not Ready for Primetime Players"; 14) Ed Sullivan; 13) Jackie Gleason; 12) Dick Van Dyke; 11) Roseanne;

10) Dick Clark; 9) Homer Simpson; 8) Jerry Seinfeld; 7) Mary Tyler Moore; 6) Carol Burnett;

5) Walter Cronkite; 4) Bill Cosby; 3) Oprah Winfrey; 2) Lucille Ball; 1) Johnny Carson. *AP*

Ready for download

WASHINGTON—Beatles fans will be able to download the legendary group's music from the Internet in 2008, Paul McCartney told Billboard magazine in an interview.

"The whole thing is primed, ready to go ... it shouldn't be too long," McCartney said about the downloads. "I'm pretty sure it'll be happening next year." *AFP*

***

RUSHES

LOLIT Solis

PIOLO Pascual, left, with lawyer Joji Alonso and Sam Milby at the press con after filing the libel suit against the TV host. RYAN LIM

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed local TV's show biz gabfests over the weekend. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

•Jennylyn Mercado's appeal to reporters upon arrival from a vacation in Boracay:

"*Konting* privacy, *konting respeto naman. Kasi kalalapag lang ng eroplano, andiyan na naman. Sana sa pagdating sa* relationship *namin ni* Patrick, *bigyan nila* ng limit. *Meron din kaming personal na buhay.*"

•Gladys Reyes, on the consequences of a stray cat biting her:

"For 28 days, *hindi muna pwedeng mag*-loving-loving. *Kahit* kiss *sa* lips ... *kasi* through saliva, *pwede ma*-transmit *kung may* rabies *akong nakuha.*"

Courtship and such

•Oyo Sotto, on rumors he is courting Kristine Hermosa:

"*Sa totoo lang, di ako marunong manligaw eh. Kasi* if ever *na kung may patutunguhan 'yung* friendship *namin ni* Kristine, *ayoko naman sabihin na nanliligaw ako.*" (Does this mean Angel Locsin courted him?)

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

KRISTINE HERMOSA

•Kristine, on Oyo's alleged courtship:

"*Hindi ko kasi alam kung papaano yung ligaw na... di ba, kasi iba-iba yung mga lalaki. Hindi sila pare-pareho ng* style."

•Kristine on reports Diether was jealous of her friendship with Oyo:

"*Nagseselos din ako sa kanya eh.*"

Lolit: Why me?

•Lolit Solis, on the libel case Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby filed against her:

"*Sumusulat si* Alfie Lorenzo, *minsan direkta pang sinasabing* gay *si* Piolo. *Sina* Pete Ampoloquio, *sina* Peter Ledesma, *diretsang sinasabing baklita si* Piolo *at si* Sam, *bakit hindi nila iyon idinemanda? Bakit ako na sinabi ko lang nagbubulungan? Hindi ko naman sinabing naghahalikan silang dalawa.*"

•Lolit, revealing she has a videotape showing Piolo was at the Hotel Sofitel when she allegedly caught him and fellow actor-singer Sam Milby at the poolside coffee shop:

"*Sinungaling si* Piolo Pascual... *'nung sinabi niyang wala siya sa* Sofitel *nung* October 12, *alas-dos ng hapon. May nakuha kaming* video *na bumababa siya sa* Hummer *niya sa mismong* hotel at that time."

•Lolit, on proof that Sam was also at Sofitel with Piolo:

"*Kay* Sam *wala akong nakuhang ebidensiya. Pero kay* Piolo *marami na kaming testigo.*"

•Lolit, on the possibility of going to jail:

"*Kung matutuwa [sila] na makulong ako ngayong sisenta na ako. Siguro mga tatlong taon bago madesisyonan ito, sisenta-tres na ako. Gusto pa nilang makulong ako,* okay *lang. Tutal, mga* Christians *sila, 'di ba? Mababait silang tao. Wala silang malisya 'di ba?* Okay *lang.*"

•Lolit's dare:

"*Kung ako sila,* next time *magpakita kayo sa akin, huwag na kayong magbulungan, maghalikan na kayo* nang lips to lips."

Piolo's retort

•Piolo Pascual, on filing the suit:

"I do not relish the idea of filing a suit against a colleague in the industry, especially someone... who was once worthy of my respect. (*Aray.*) What she wrote was baseless and a complete fabrication. She has disrespected us as colleagues and as human beings."

•Joji Alonso:

"This is not an issue [of] age. *Parang lumalabas na si* Sam *at* Piolo *ang masama* for protecting their rights. *Huwag nating kakalimutan,* [they] are the victims here. *Sila 'yung pinagtatawanan, sila 'yung pinagsasabihan na, 'Bakit natin [sila] susuportahan ... mga bakla naman iyan.* They are not [credible] as leading men.'"

•Joji, on the restroom issue raised by Lolit:

"That was an exaggerated example that, you know, Piolo was in the CR and Sam wanted to go. I said, '*Wag ka nang pumasok at mamaya gagawan ka ng issue na nagse-sex kayo.*' [I was] being sarcastic."

Cristine vs Carlene

•Cristine Reyes, on why she is suing Carlene Aguilar for oral defamation:

"*Kailangan ko protektahan ang sarili ko.*"

•Dennis Trillo on the tiff between Carlene and Cristine:

"*Masaya siyempre na kahit alam mo na meron tayong mga intriga na hindi natin gusto, mga pangyayaring di nating inaasahan...* at least *hindi naapektuhan ang trabaho, 'yung* blessings, *tuloy pa rin. Talagang mabait ang* Diyos. *Balanse pa rin ang buhay.*" (Huh?)

•Rufa Mae Quinto, on hints she was one of the women linked to Dennis Trillo, and whom Carlene Aguilar called:

"*Magulo masyado yan... ayoko [nang] maki-sawsaw diyan.* Past is past... for me."

(Was that a "Yes, I was?")

•Ara Mina, Cristine's big sister, to Dennis:

"We're still waiting for your explanation... *ikaw lang makaka*-explain *nito sa publiko.*"

Secret whispers

•Carlene Aguilar, on her encounter with Cristine Reyes:

"*Nakita ko siya sa* dressing room, so I introduced myself to her. *Bago ako umalis, may binulong ako sa kanya.* I don't want to [say] what I whispered to her. *Tapos, umalis na ako... biglang may sumigaw na 'Pangit!'* I think it's her *alalay* or it's her PA *na katabi niya. Gusto lang naming malaman kung sino 'yon.*"

•Carlene's feelings about the controversy:

"*Umabot na sa* point *na wala nang* feeling... *kasi parang pinapalabas talaga nila na sila ... pa 'yung kawawa.*"

•Carlene, on why she confronted Cristine:

"*Basta may sinabi siya sa akin na gagawin niya na hindi niya ginawa. Sinabi ko na meron kaming relasyon* [*ni* Dennis] and we were trying to fix things."

•Carlene, on the text messages that were bases of Cristine's oral defamation suit:

"*Sana, kung maglalabas po sila ng ganoon, ilabas po nila lahat-lahat, hindi po 'yung pili lang.*"

•Carlene on what Dennis should do:

"*Inamin niya sa akin na nagkamali siya.* And, *humingi na rin siya ng* sorry *sa akin* and *sa pamilya ko. Nakikita ko naman na* sincere *siya, so* okay *na sa akin 'yon. Di na niya kailangan ipagtanggol pa ako... sa* TV *o sa* newspapers." (Maybe he should, girl.)

STAR AWARDEES. At the 21st (Philippine Movie Press Club) Star Awards for TV, from left: Kim Chiu shared with Lovi Poe the Best New Female Personality honors; John Lloyd Cruz won the Best Drama Actor and Face of the Night trophies; Sunshine Dizon was named Best Drama Actress. The ceremony was held Sunday night at the Henry Lee Irwin Theatre, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

'Superbad' a cut above the rest

REVIEW

NEW YORK—"SUPERBAD" HAS been so super-ubiquitous, it only feels like it's already been in theaters for months.

Between the posters, TV commercials and promotional appearances by its stars, the hype machine has been in full force.

And the association with "Knocked Up," one of the summer's biggest hits and one of the best comedies in a while, certainly doesn't hurt. Judd Apatow, who wrote and directed that film, serves as producer here; Seth Rogen, its star, cowrote the "Superbad" script and has a hilarious supporting role.

"Knocked Up" is a hard act to follow, though. "Superbad" has all the laughs of its predecessor but only about half the heart.

Still, co-stars Jonah Hill and Michael Cera are irresistible as best friends on a quest for alcohol, which they hope will help them hook up with girls at a big party. The sweetness and awkwardness of their freakishly co-dependent relationship is totally believable. Not a moment between them feels false in the script from Rogen and Evan Goldberg, themselves best friends, who based the movie on their own adolescent angst.

But Christopher Mintz-Plasse, as an even geekier kid who gets a fake ID with the one-word name McLovin, pretty much steals the whole show in his first film. Mintz-Plasse's scrawny, bespectacled Fogell has a rich, full experience all his own—much more so than other characters in the movie.

Director Greg Mottola is visiting familiar territory here—the high school hi-jinks movie has been a staple from "American Graffiti" to "American Pie"—but everyone is relatable and the situations rarely feel strained, which makes "Superbad" a cut above most.

Taking place over the course of a day, the film follows pals Seth (Hill) and Evan (Cera), who are about to leave each other to attend separate colleges. They're trying not to freak out about this; they struggle to keep themselves from talking about it. Instead they throw all their energy into figuring out a way to buy alcohol for a big bash at the home of pretty, popular Jules (Emma Stone).

Simply psyched

More than a bit nerdy, these guys are just psyched to have been invited. Seth is desperate to lose his virginity. Up-and-coming comic actor Hill has a great energy about him (he was the best part of "Evan Almighty."

Evan has had a longtime crush on classmate Becca (Martha MacIssac), who's nice enough to give him the time of day. Cera is best known as the lovably goofy George-Michael Bluth on the sadly defunct sitcom "Arrested Development." Here, his self-conscious starts and stops reveal more than a few glimmers of his TV character, and also makes you want to see what else he can do. *Christy Lemire, AP*

Unexpectedly captivating lead portrayals in 'The Game Plan'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT FIRST BLUSH, "THE GAME PLAN" LOOKS like a slick, shallow diversion, a twice-told tale about a self-centered football star (**Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson**) whose high-flying life is "disturbed" by the unexpected appearance of an eight-year-old daughter (**Madison Pettis**) he never knew he had.

Uh-oh, here we go again, another tough guy being softened by a retroactive paternal love he didn't know he was capable of. Pass the Kleenex—no, make that the popcorn, with emphasis on the *corn*.

Happily, however, "The Game Plan" turns out to have more heart and inventiveness than it initially appears. Some of its scenes are genuinely affecting and entertaining—and although its happy ending is a foregone conclusion, its plot and character development is both emotionally instructive and thematically involving.

To be sure, some of its elements confound instead of clarify, like the vague back story about the sports hero's ex-wife. But we get over that and other bumps on the road, and go on to appreciate the movie's more focused aspects.

Its most inventive thematic twist is its unexpected correlation of football and—ballet! Yes, football star's daughter loves ballet, and she pulls him into that utterly incongruous milieu—until he discovers to his amazement that those two contrary worlds have more in common with each other than he'd ever thought.

And what would that be? For starters, we get to understand better why some arts writers declare, "Classical dancers are athletes, too!"

Of course, this can be carried too far, with gigantic football players weeping over a ballet performance. But, this is where a sense of whimsey comes in, so that scene isn't really as gauche as it sounds.

However, absolutely no apologies are required for the lead portrayals in this movie, which are unexpectedly captivating.

Setting the pace is little Madison Pettis, who plays the plum role of the sports star's daughter. She may be a movie newcomer, but she turns in such an easy, breezy performance that she comes off like a pro.

Her sassy but not off-putting portrayal is matched by Johnson's surprisingly winning characterization of the football star. He plays him cocky and smug, as befits an athlete who's lionized by millions—but he's also able to show the lug "growing" a father's heart, although very slowly, and even grudgingly.

Towards the end of the movie, Pettis and Johnson have developed their roles so well that their scenes together fairly crackle and hum with delightful rapport.

Not to be outdone, the football star's pet dog, Spike, also scores points as he jauntily acts as a furry go-between for dad and daughter when they're at their combative worst.

In addition, the sassy Kyra Sedgwick throws in a few licks as Johnson's bitchy agent, who wants him to become filthy rich so she can get her share of the pay dirt.

All of these peppy portrayals percolate nicely throughout the movie and "The Game Plan" ends up in the winners' circle, along with its two top stars.

'27 Dresses'

Katherine Heigl, who impressed the heck out of us in "Knocked Up," next stars in "27 Dresses," where she plays a woman who's made a "career" out of being a bridesmaid—but never the bride.

She faces her worst nightmare when her sister gets engaged to the man of her dreams! Luckily, she eventually meets the man who may end her "professional bridesmaid" status for good!

Sci-fi classic

After much too long a hiatus from film acting, **Keanu Reeves** finally heaves into cinematic view again in the remake of "The Day the Earth Stood Still," the 1951 sci-fi classic about an alien and his robot who land on earth in a spacecraft. He warns our planet's leaders not to take their conflicts into space or they will face devastating consequences.

Christmas carols . . .

From page G6

the domestic subsidiary of Europe's largest direct selling company that manufactures perfumes, beauty products and nutritionals.

Guests included the Sexbomb, Yeng Constantino and Shamrock. The event's highlight was the awarding of two Benz cars and an all-expense paid trip to Germany to top Pinoy sales couple, Fidel and Teresita Castillo. You could also be like them. Call 482-0688 for details. Sale away!

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

ONE MORE CHANCE PG13	BEOWULF PG13	ENCHANTED G
HITMAN R13	NANNY DIARIES G	ENCHANTED G

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 ENCHANTED 10:40 , 1:25 , 4:10 6:55 , 9:40 GP
CINEMA 2 BEOWULF 11:40 , 2:25 , 5:10 7:55 , 10:35 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 ONE MORE CHANCE 11:30 , 2:15 , 5:00 7:45 , 10:30 PG-13
CINEMA 4 HITMAN 10:30 , 12:50, 3:10 5:30 , 7:50 , 10:10 PG-13
CINEMA 5 ENCHANTED 11:15 , 2:05 , 4:50 7:35 , 10:20 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM
November 23 & 24 , 2007	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
December 14 , 2007	Mark Herras	8:00 PM
December 15 , 2007	The Company	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Nov. 21, 22, 28 & 29 , 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

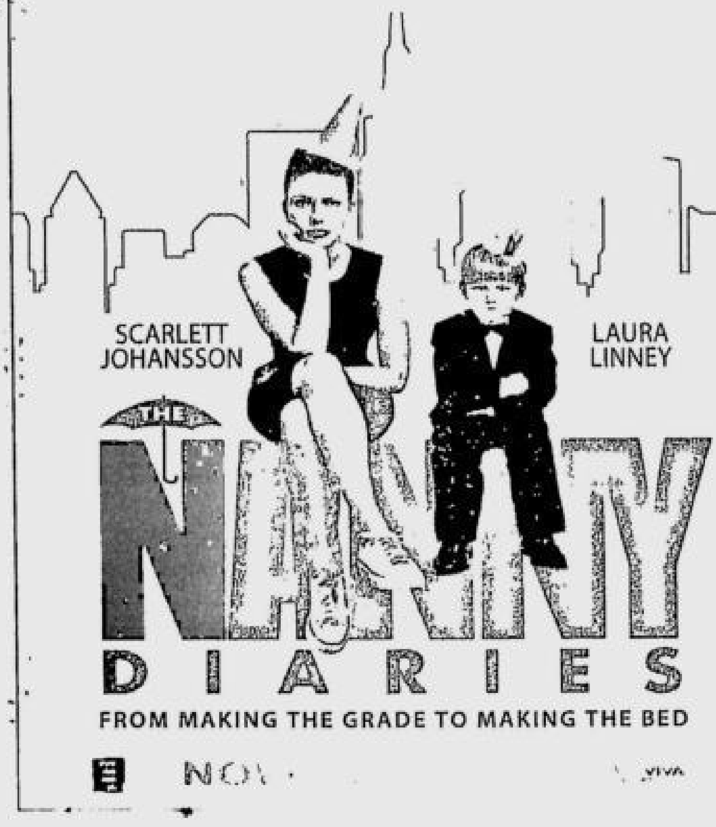
FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating G All Ages Admitted

Half his size,
twice the trouble
...and she's moving in.

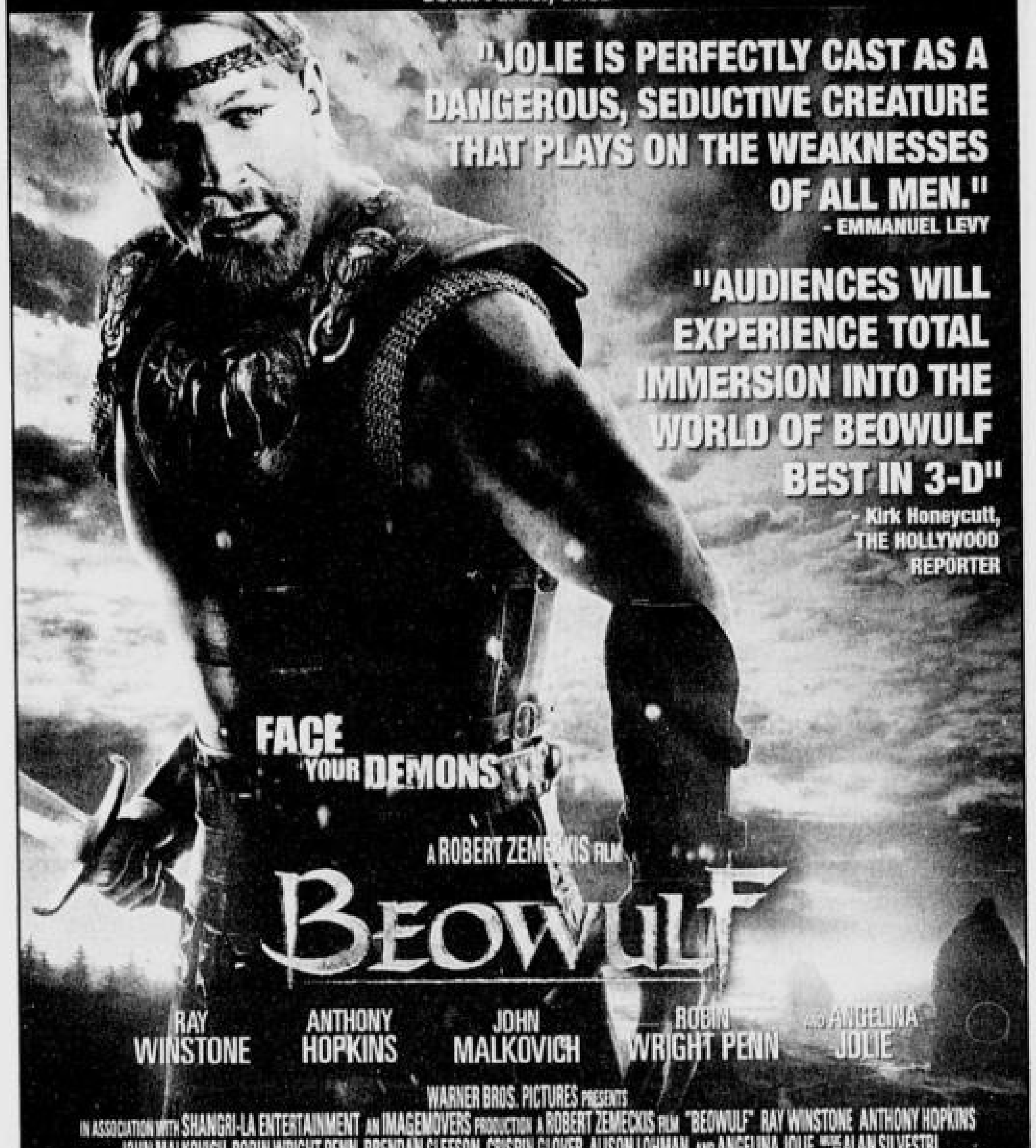
DWAYNE 'THE ROCK' JOHNSON
Walt Disney Pictures presents
THE GAMEPLAN
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
She's got killer grades and a killer resumé.
Now, she's in a job that's killing her.

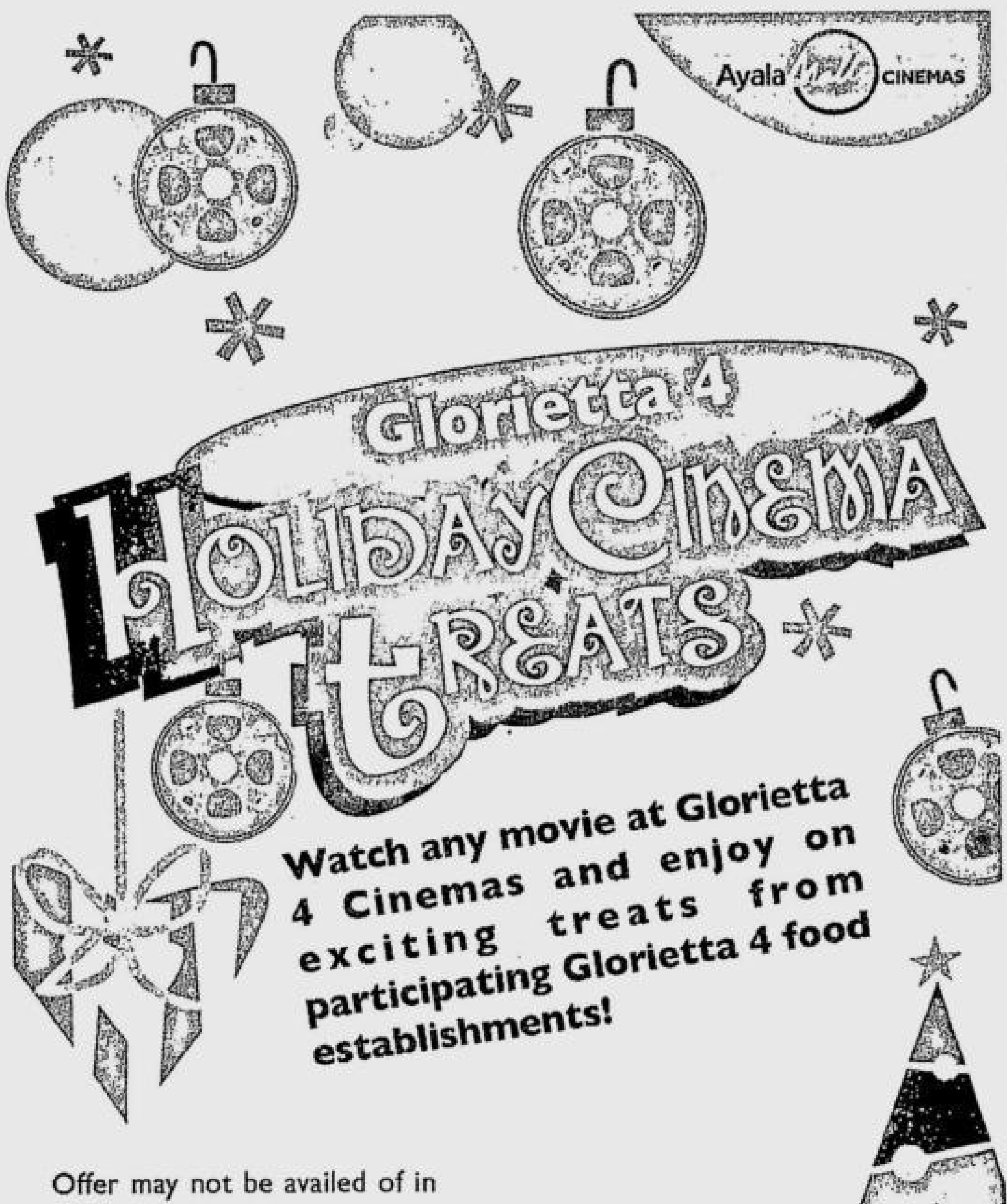


SHANG CINEPLEX
1 BEOWULF MTRCB PG-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
2 ONE MORE CHANCE MTRCB PG-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
3 THE NANNY DIARIES MTRCB GP 12 20, 2 45, 5:10
FRED CLAUS MTRCB GP 7:30, 10:00
4 THE KINGDOM MTRCB PG-13 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
PREMIERE THEATRE SUPER BAD (R-18) 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"AN EXHILARATING EXPERIENCE, A GLORIOUS SPECTACLE!" - Devin Faraci, CHUD


"JOLIE IS PERFECTLY CAST AS A DANGEROUS, SEDUCTIVE CREATURE THAT PLAYS ON THE WEAKNESSES OF ALL MEN." - EMMANUEL LEVY
"AUDIENCES WILL EXPERIENCE TOTAL IMMERSION INTO THE WORLD OF BEOWULF BEST IN 3-D" - Kirk Honeycutt, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
FACE YOUR DEMONS
A ROBERT ZEMECKIS FILM
BEOWULF
RAY WINSTONE
ANTHONY HOPKINS
JOHN MALKOVICH
ROBIN WRIGHT PENN
AND ANGELINA JOLIE

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH SHANGRI-LA ENTERTAINMENT AN IMAGEMOVERS PRODUCTION A ROBERT ZEMECKIS FILM "BEOWULF" RAY WINSTONE ANTHONY HOPKINS JOHN MALKOVICH ROBIN WRIGHT PENN BRENDAN GLEESON CRISPIN GLOVER ALISON LOHMAN AND ANGELINA JOLIE MUSIC BY ALAN SILVESTRI ORIGINAL SONGS WRITTEN BY GLEN BALLARD AND ALAN SILVESTRI CO-PRODUCER STEVEN BOYD EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARTIN SHAFER ROGER AVARY NEIL GAIMAN SCREENPLAY BY NEIL GAIMAN & ROGER AVARY PRODUCED BY STEVE STARKEY ROBERT ZEMECKIS JACK RAPKE DIRECTED BY ROBERT ZEMECKIS
www.beowulf-asia.com



Watch any movie at Glorietta 4 Cinemas and enjoy on exciting treats from participating Glorietta 4 food establishments!

Offer may not be availed of in conjunction with other promotions

Promo Period:
November 14
to December 31, 2007.

Ayala Malls Cinemas...
Beyond Movies!

Per DTI-NCR Permit # A2-503. Series of 2007.
See posters for details.

glorietta

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) THE NANNY DIARIES
FRED CLAUS
4 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SUPERBAD

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

starmall EDSA - SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SUPER BAD
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504385, 8433984
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 UNREST

THEATRES
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 SUPER BAD
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3
4

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE NANNY DAIRIES
2 BEOWULF
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BOOGEYMAN - 2
6 GAME PLAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BEOWULF
8 BALLS OF FURY/WE OWN THE NIGHT
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 SUPER BAD

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 LUST CAUTION
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 LUST CAUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BEOWULF

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 STURDUST

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
2 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
3 (DOLBY) THE NANNY DAIRIES
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
4 HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) UNREST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
2 SISID
3 TUKSO
4 RENDITION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 XXX.CMM
3 BEOWULF
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 SUPER BAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SUPER BAD
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

OPENING TODAY

Enchanted

Stars Amy Adams, James Marsden, Susan Sarandon, Patrick Dempsey

Directed by Kevin Lima

Cursed by an evil witch (Sarandon), a fairy-tale princess (Adams) is banished to the real world—specifically, to New York. Peter Travers of Rolling Stone raves that Adams is "a spicy … real-life doll." Matthew Turner of The View London agrees: "[It's an] enjoyable comedy with an amusing script and super comic performance from Adams." Staci Layne Wilson of Buzzine mag says that "[this Disney film] works like a charm."

Animahenasyon 2007

Dubbed as the "Pinoy Animation Festival," this event showcases a hundred animation shorts. Festival director Ricky Orellana calls it the "Olympics of Pinoy animation." Works by newcomers Nelson "Blog" Caliguia Jr. and Jeff Capili, as well as by veterans Roxlee and Ellen Ramos, are featured. Apart from film screenings, a two-day conference is also set. Exclusively in IndieSine Robinsons Galleria.

Hitman

Stars Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Robert Knepper

Directed by Xavier Gens

Based on a popular Eidos Interactive video game, this action flick casts a genetically engineered assassin, Agent 47 (Olyphant), as hero. Fans of the game were reportedly disappointed when Olyphant replaced original choice Vin Diesel. Comments Joshua Tyler of Cinemablend.com: "Olyphant doesn't sell himself as a big, bad, bald hitman. He looks like a quasi-weakling … [But] I have great faith in Olyphant."

3:10 to Yuma

Stars Russell Crowe, Christian Bale, Peter Fonda, Gretchen Moll

Directed by James Mangold, Freddie Hice

In this remake of a 1957 Western, a luckless rancher (Bale) is pitted against a charming criminal (Crowe) in a fatal mind game. Kenneth Turan of Los Angeles Times points out that the movie has a "visceral, immediate quality that makes it both realistic and mythic." A.O. Scott of New York Times opines that it "does its best to honor the original's unpretentious spirit." Richard Schickel of Time states that it's "trim, efficiently paced."

Tessa enchants H'wood preem guests

By Ruben and Janet Nepales
Los Angeles Correspondents

"DUETS" champ Tessa Prieto-Valdes with Masi Oka of "Heroes"

LOS ANGELES—TESSA PRIETO-Valdes stopped traffic, literally and figuratively, on her way to and from the world premiere of Disney's "Enchanted" at the El Capitan Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard.

Wearing a voluminous green Rajo Laurel gown that must have weighed at least four pounds, wings and a crown borrowed from no less than Miss Earth, the INQUIRER columnist and recent "Celebrity Duets" champion was quite a sight as she walked from the Renaissance Hotel to Hollywood Boulevard.

With her trademark panache, charm and easy laughter, Tessa was determined to enjoy her night in Hollywood as the celebrity parent winner of a prize given by Disney and The Little Gym, where her daughter Athena is enrolled in the preschool program.

Instant admirers

Car riders opened their windows and sunroofs to take pictures of her. Tourists screamed: "You look nice!" "You look good!" "You look perfect!" Instant admirers surrounded her and shook her hands, posed with her or took her pictures.

We overheard a Filipino onlooker saying, *"Kung sasagutin niya ako, pakakasalan ko siya, ngayon din!"*

Life was imitating art in "Enchanted," where Amy Adams, a fairy tale princess in a hand-drawn animation world, is suddenly thrust into the heart of New York's Times Square. Holding her full gown just like Amy's Princess Giselle does in the movie, Tessa, in her costume, seemed to come from a different, enchanted world as she drew puzzled yet admiring glances on the boulevard lined by tattoo- and body-piercing shops.

Upon arrival on the red carpet just across the Kodak Theatre where the Oscar show is held, Tessa stirred the paparazzi into frenzy. One photographer did not know whether to train his camera lens on "American Idol" champ Carrie Underwood or on Tessa. He decided to switch back and forth between Carrie and Tessa. It was the second time a gown by Rajo Laurel graced the red carpet of a Hollywood event. The first was the one he and David Tupaz made for Pia Clemente, first Filipina Oscar nominee.

Inside El Capitan and at the lavish after-party, many of the guests, young and old, couldn't help but admire Tessa's costume. They posed for pictures with her. Young girls, dressed in princess costumes, ran up to her and hugged her.

SEA princess meets Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty PHOTOS BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

Meeting the stars

Through it all, Tessa smiled and laughed, even as she sometimes had to walk sideways to avoid slapping guests with her wings. She made the heavy gown look light and endured the fact that it was impossible for her to heed nature's call. Instead, she reveled in meeting Amy Adams and her co-stars, Patrick Dempsey and Timothy Spall, who plays Nathaniel and was Peter Pettigrew in two "Harry Potter" films; Disney and Pixar animation head John Lasseter; "the Queen" herself, Helen Mirren, this year's Oscar and Golden Globe Best Actress; and "Heroes" star Masi Oka.

Tessa lost her princess-like composure only when she met Mr. McDreamy. We thought her delighted scream could be heard all the way to Manila.

Other guests from the Philippines were Ronald and Kiara Suarez, who won the trip to attend the premiere in a raffle participated in by families enrolled at The Little Gym; Kiara's Florida-based cousin, Lizzie Tolentino; and The Little Gym teacher Paolo Marzan. Another set of winners came from The Little Gym's Singapore branch.

After her unforgettable night in Hollywood, at the stroke of midnight, Tessa, like Cinderella, had to walk back to her hotel. But unlike Cinderella, she couldn't run. The heavy gown made it impossible for her to walk faster than a turtle. So just like how she was greeted on her way to the "Enchanted" ball, Tessa stopped traffic again on Hollywood Boulevard.

Christmas carols for feuding celebrities

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

SINCE YULETIDE IS IN THE AIR, isn't it the right time for feuding celebs to make peace already? In the spirit of fun, I came up with alternative Christmas carols that could bridge the gap between warring stars. *Ang mapikon*, guilty! Merry, Very Crazy Show Biz Christmas!

Martin Nievera to Pops Fernandez (to the tune of "Pasko Na Sinta Ko"):

Pasko na, Pipay ko
Hanap-hanap kita
Bakit nagpa-interview
Binisto mo ako

Carlene Aguilar to Dennis Trillo (to the tune of "Christmas Won't Be The Same Without You"):

Cristine won't be the same without you
Cristine won't be the same if you go
All I need to see standing by my Christmas tree
Is you and me
Cristine won't be the same without you.

Lolit Solis to Piolo and Sam (to the tune of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"):

I saw Piolo kissing Papa Sam
Underneath the Sofitel trees last night.
They didn't see me creep
By the pool to have a peep
They thought I was stuck up in the studio
Making *bati* and *harbat*

Amalia Fuentes to Joey Stevens (to the tune of "Deck the Halls"):

Deck the courts with lies and alibis
Blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah

Joey de Leon to Willie Revillame (to the tune of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"):

You better watch out, You better not cry
You better not cheat, I'm telling you why
MTRCB is coming to town.

Hope Centeno to James Yap (to the tune of "Merry Christmas, Darling"):

Discount cards have all been sent
The body scrub is through
Still I have one wish to make
A special one for you
Merry Christmas, Big Bird
Happy New Skin Clinic, too

Ara Mina to Jinkee Pacquiao (to the tune of "Give Love on Christmas Day"):

Pacman making lists
Buying special gifts
Taking time to be kind to one and all
It's that time of year when women are near
And you wish he could give you more
Than just presents from a store
Why don't you give way on Christmas Day?

***Moi* to Annabel Rama** (to the tune of "Jingle Bell Rock"):

Annabel Annabel Annabel Mock
Annabel's bling and Annabel's ring
Saying and fuming bushels of sham
Now the Annabel crap has begun

LR launch

The launch of LR Health & Beauty Systems Philippines last Nov. 17 at the Big Dome was a rousing success. It's

CHRISTMAS/ G5

MTRCB Rating ▶ G | All Ages Admitted
THIS FAIRYTALE PRINCESS IS ABOUT TO MEET A REAL PRINCE CHARMING.
Walt Disney Pictures presents
ENCHANTED
EnchantedMovie.com
Grand Opening Today
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

---

Mau on the move

Country's first 'Idol' gears up for regional tilt

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photo by Romy Homillada

MAU Marcelo

HECTIC IS HOW SINGER MAU Marcelo describes the next three weeks of her life.

As the country's representative to "Asian Idol," which will be held in Indonesia next month, she's enduring not a few sleepless nights.

"I'm always tense," she admits. "Every time I have a quiet time alone, I always pray. I know that 'Asian Idol' is not just for me; it's for the entire country."

Rigorous training

ABC 5, record label Sony-BMG and manager Sandra Chavez have lined up a rigorous training schedule for Marcelo, who bested hundreds of hopefuls on "Philippine Idol" a year ago.

This week, she started a personality development course under stage director Freddie Santos and voice lessons under singer Zebedee Zuñiga.

"I'm also going on a diet," she quips. "I have stopped eating rice."

She says she's required to bring five show outfits for the 10-day trip to Jakarta, where she's set to compete with representatives from Malaysia, Singapore, India, Vietnam and Indonesia.

"The Lucena-based designers (Armand Remojo and Roland Roxas) who made my gowns for the 'Philippine Idol' finals have created three outfits for me. My manager also plans to ask other designers," Mau relates.

She has submitted six songs for "Asian Idol" organizers to choose from: Dulce's "Panata" and "Ako ang Nagwagi"; Lani Misalucha's version of "Natutulog Ba ang Diyos"; Shirley Bassey's "The Greatest Performance of My Life"; Gloria Estefan's "Reach" and Whitney Houston's "On My Own."

At the time of the interview, she's still uncertain which of the six would be her competition pieces. "I'm required to sing one English and one Filipino song during the performance night on Dec 15."

The finals night on Dec. 16 will be aired by ABC 5.

Since the 'Idol' franchise moved from ABC 5 to GMA 7, Marcelo initially thought that the country's participation in "Asian Idol" would be scrapped.

"It was supposed to be held this month. I didn't expect it would still push through. In fact, I already stopped asking my manager about it," she recalls.

Then Chavez informed her that "with or without a local channel," she'd be joining the regional tilt.

Thankful

Mau recounts: "At first, I was worried because I heard the contest would not be aired locally. How can I get text votes if Filipinos can't watch the show?"

That's why she's thankful that ABC 5 is airing the two-part competition next month—including a pre-contest special, "Road to Asian Idol," on Dec. 8.

Her own "Idol" journey, which began when she auditioned in SM Lucena, is proof that "dreams do come true," she insists.

When she lost out to Sarah Geronimo on the talent show "Star for a Night" in 2003, Marcelo got so disappointed that she stopped joining contests and worked as a lounge singer in Singapore for a year.

"I felt it wasn't my time yet," she says.

Four years after Singapore, she's on her way to woo the rest of Asia.

Everyone understands that the first precept to managing change is accepting an "adapt or die" mentality. But I believe this is the minimum requirement for survival. The more critical factor is actually the attitude behind the resignation to adjust. What's better than grit-your-teeth-and-bear-it, is to embrace a daunting new chapter as an opportunity to do better, a Darwinian evolution, a fresh era… and yes, A NEW ORDER.

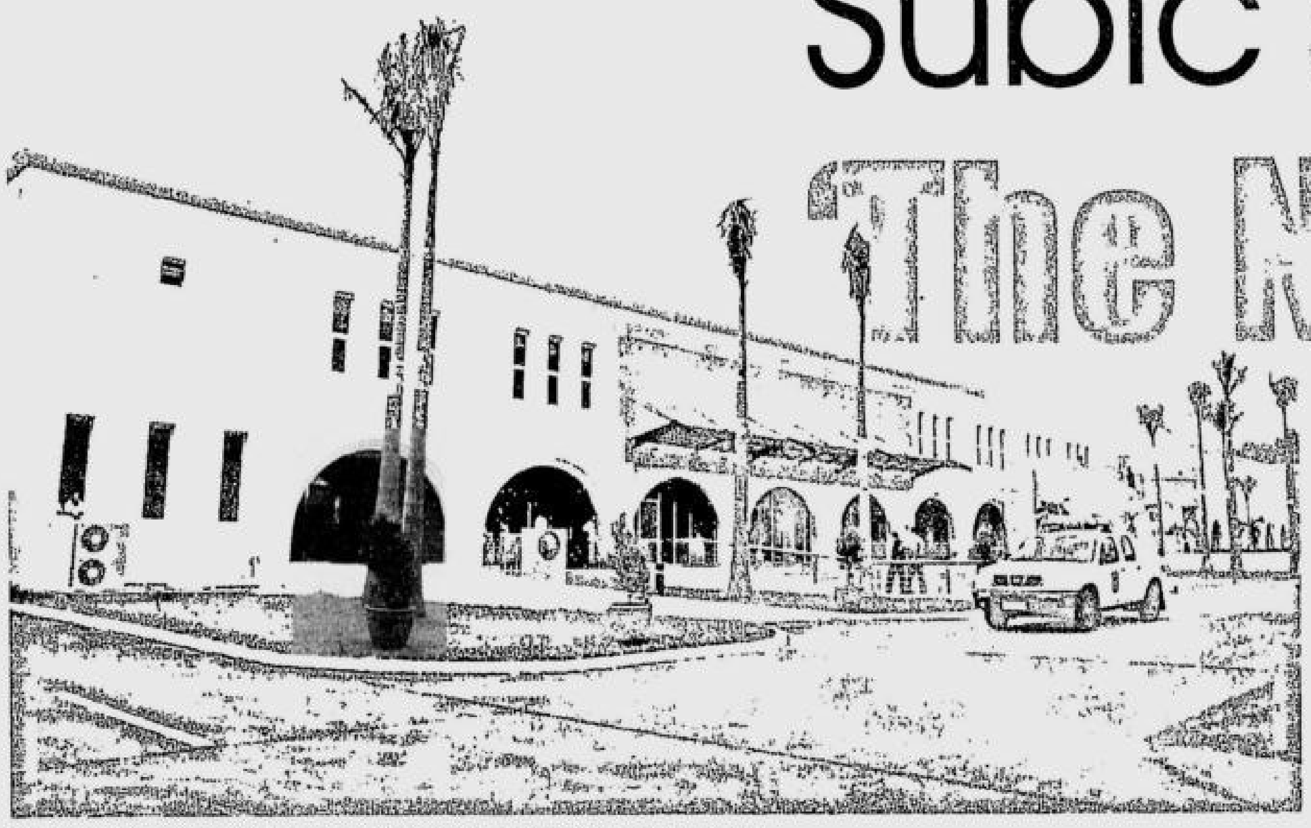
Optimism may not be cool or edgy for the dark, brooding and forlorn world of the Artiste. A buoyant outlook in a challenging business climate is definitely not standard. It's dismissed as naiveté, New Age mumbo-jumbo or some cult-like positivism. But believe it or not, this Pollyanna perspective can spell the difference between surviving and thriving. Inertia and surrender depletes productive energy and imagination, the most essential ingredients for success. Making change work for you requires equal parts of confidence and smarts.

The 20th Philippine Advertising Congress dares to hope, that at the very least, participants will go home armed with more self-belief that if the New Order hurls a curved ball their way, they can still hit a homerun.

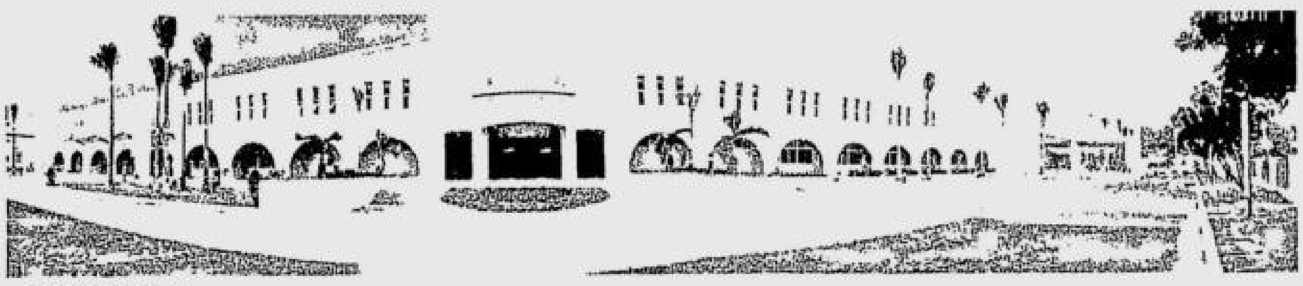
Ma. Yolanda V. Ong
Overall Chair
20th Philippine Advertising Congress

20TH PHILIPPINE ADVERTISING CONGRESS
THE NEW ORDER

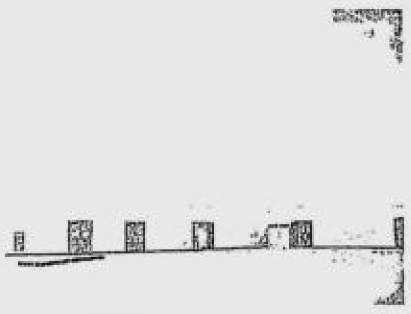
Subic's in order for 'The New Order'



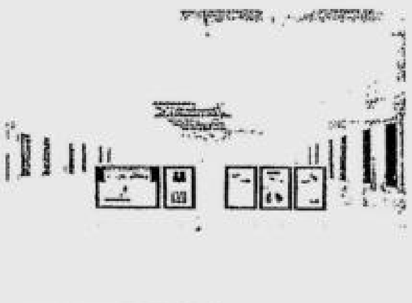
SUBIC Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBECC)



PERSPECTIVE



LOUNGE Area



CONVETION Hall

DINING Area

"WE ARE READY AND EXCITED."

Thus said lawyer Ferdinand Hernandez, the vice chairperson of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Advertising Congress Counterpart Committee.

And so delegates attending the 20th Philippine Ad Congress "The New Order" in Subic are assured of a fun and rewarding experience at the main venue, the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBECC).

"Our scheduled finishing touches and completion are right on time," Hernandez stated. "The Ad Congress committee chairs do regular inspections here and I am proud to say that they are satisfied with the preparations."

He also revealed that "everything's in place", with security, traffic, and other amenities already beefed up. He remarks, "I am very sure the delegates will only be too happy to be here. Since Subic is also a tourist destination, we are also ensuring that they will have a great time going around the place."

Even with hotels, Hernandez mentioned that participants will have no problems with accommodations.

"We have likewise ensured that even late registrants will find a place to stay in Subic. Hotel reservations have so far been doing well. There are enough rooms to lodge attendees. Even hotels outside Subic are also well-prepared for the turnout," he explained.

SBMA employees have also been informed and oriented about the arrival of the year's biggest advertising industry event. He added, "We stepped up our cleanliness drives too."

While expressing readiness for the Ad Congress, Hernandez said his group is just as excited to prove that choosing the SBECC as the venue is no fluke.

"We hope they will want to hold future Ad Congresses here in Subic because we are pulling out all the stops to make this a resounding success."

A former computer parts factory, the venue is the Philippines' largest convention and trade exhibition center, able to accommodate approximately 5,000 attendees.

The New Order unfolds on November 21 to 24, 2007. For more inquiries, log on to http://www.20thadcongress-theneworder.com or call the 20th PAC Secretariat at 894-3076, 894-0838, or 812-5622.

'Delegates attending the 20th Philippine Ad Congress 'The New Order' in Subic are assured of a fun and rewarding experience at the main venue, the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBECC)'

INQUIRER

CALTEX

20TH PHILIPPINE ADVERTISING CONGRESS

ROADTRIP ASSISTANCE

Rest your worries on traveling to the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress with the Inquirer and Caltex Road Assistance Pit Stops on the road to the GVC Convention Center in Subic Industrial Park. Find premium support on motoring and passenger needs with a comprehensive array of pit stop services, which include:

First Aid | Vehicle Repair | Vehicle Towing | Directional Aid | Massage | Free Newspapers

Plus get a chance to win thousands of Caltex Star Cash gift certificates when you visit any of the Inquirer-Caltex Road Assistance centers!

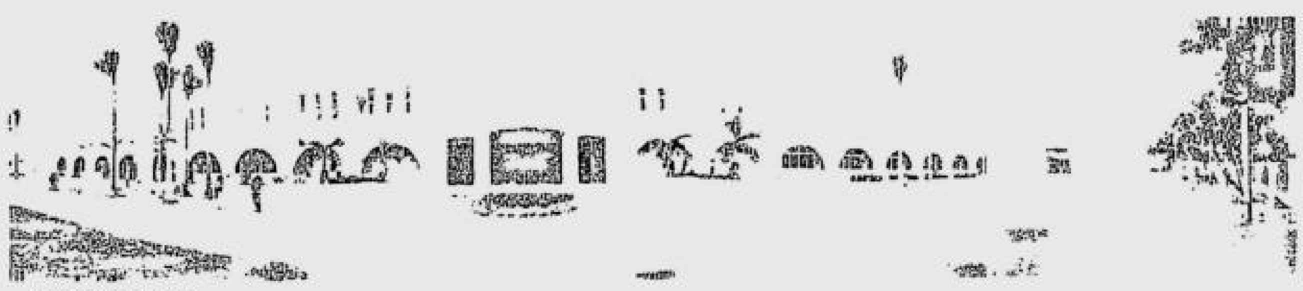
20th Philippine Advertising Congress delegates only. See Road Assistance Pit Stop coupon in the Inquirer Ad Congress Invite for more details.

20th Philippine Advertising Congress
21-24 November 2007

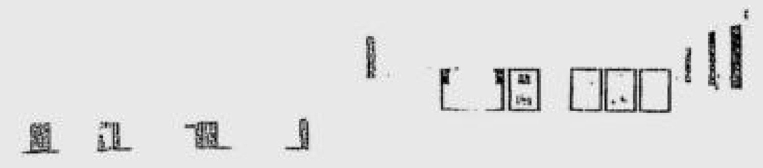
[illegible]

Subic's in order for

SUBIC Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBECC)



PERSPECTIVE



LOUNGE Area

CONVETION Hall

DINING Area

"WE'RE RE[illegible] AND EXCITED," said [illegible] Ferdinand Hernandez, the vice chairperson of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Advertising Congress Counterpart Committee.

And [illegible] delegates attending the 20th Philippine Ad Congress "The New Order" in Subic are assured of a fun and rewarding experience [illegible] the main venue, the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBECC).

"Our scheduled finishing touches and completion are right on time," Hernandez stated. "The Ad Congress committee chairs do regular inspections here and I am proud to say that they are satisfied with the preparations."

He also re[illegible]led that "everything's in place [illegible] security, traffic and other amenities already beefed up. He remarks, "[illegible] very sure the delegates will only be too happy to be [illegible]. Since Subic is also a tourist destinat[illegible] are also ensuring that they [illegible] time going around the [illegible]."

Hernandez mentioned [illegible] participants will have no problems with accommodations.

"We have likewise ensured that [illegible] registrants will find a place to stay in Subic. Hotel reservations have so far been doing well. There are enough rooms to lodge attendees. Even hotels outside Subic are also well-prepared for the turnout," he explained.

SBMA employees have also been informed and oriented about the arrival of the year's biggest advertising industry event. He added, "We stepped up our cleanliness drives too."

While expressing readiness for the Ad Congress, Hernandez said his group is just as excited to prove that choosing the SBECC as the venue is no fluke.

"We hope they will want to hold future Ad Congresses here in Subic because we are pulling out all the stops to make this a resounding success."

A former computer parts factory, the venue is the Philippines' largest convention and trade exhibition center, able to accommodate approximately 5,000 attendees.

The New Order unfolds on November 21 to 24, 2007. For more inquiries, log on to http://www.20thadcongress-theneworder.com or call the 20th PAC Secretariat at 894-3076, 894-0838, or 812-5622.

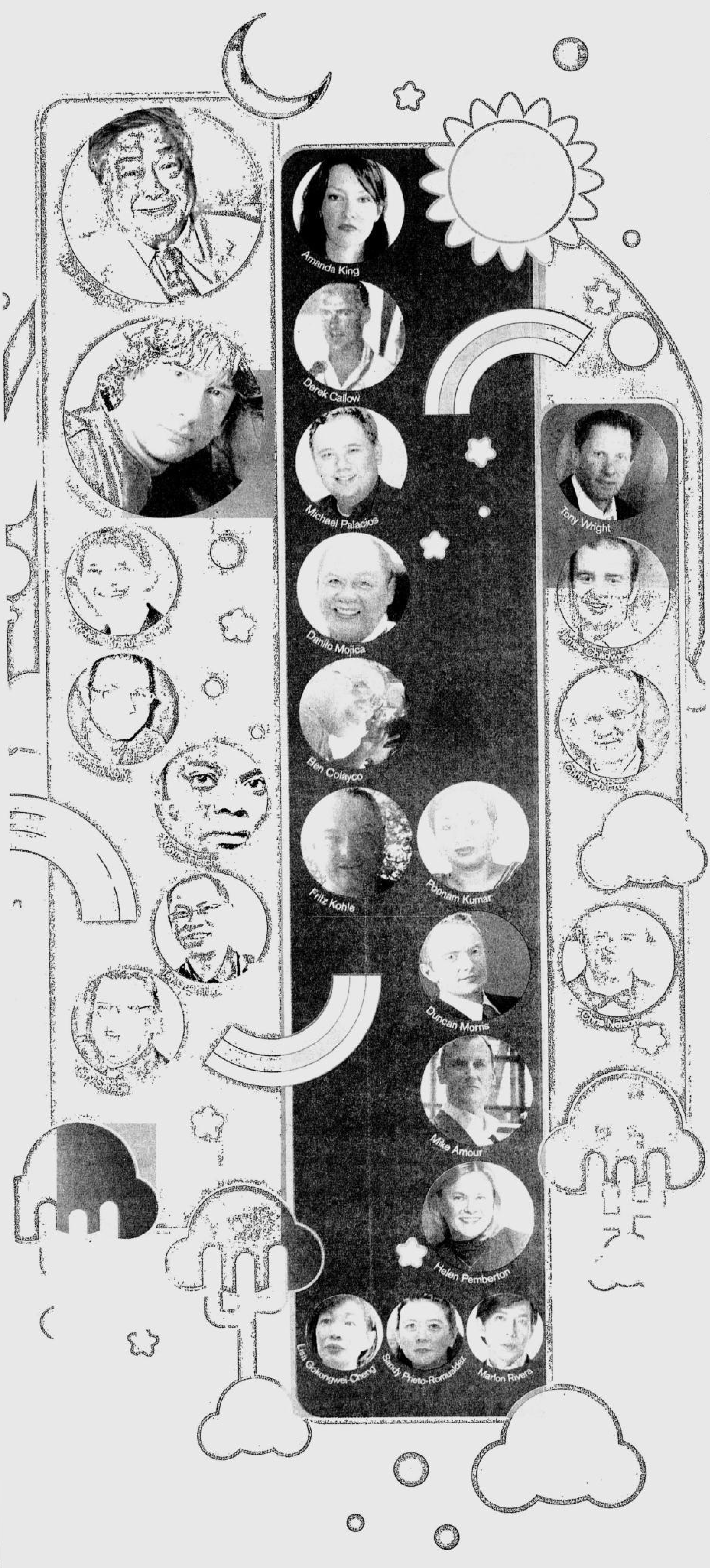
> 'Delegates attending the 20th Philippine Ad Congress 'The New Order' in Subic are assured of a fun and rewarding experience at the main venue, the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center (SBECC)'

INQUIRER

CALTEX

20TH PHILIPPINE ADVERTISING CONGRESS
ROADTRIP ASSISTANCE

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME


Amanda King
Derek Callow
Michael Palacios
Danilo Mojica
Ben Colayco
Fritz Kohle
Poonam Kumar
Duncan Morris
Mike Amour
Helen Pemberton
Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng
Sandy Prieto-Romualdez
Marlon Rivera
Tony Wright

They're bringing New Order to the Philippines.

Distinguished speakers from around the globe share their knowledge on how to bring new order to Philippine Advertising.

JOHN GOKONGWEI, JR.
Chairman Emeritus
JG Summit Holdings, Inc.
Keynote Speaker
NEIL GAIMAN
Greater Talent Network
Inspirational Speaker
MICHELLE KRISTULA-GREEN
President - Leo Burnett & Arc
Asia Pacific
GRAHAM KELLY
ECD - TBWA Group Singapore
& Chief Creative Integrator,
TBWA Asia Pacific
WAYNE FLETCHER
President - Sandbox,
Universal McCann
TAY GUAN HIN
Regional ECD - SEA,
JWT Singapore
TERRY SAVAGE
Chairman- International
Advertising Festival
AMANDA KING
President - Tribal DDB, Asia Pacific
DEREK CALLOW
Regional Marketing Manager
Google, Southeast Asia
MICHAEL PALACIOS
Managing Director
Havoc Digital Phil.
DANILO MOJICA
Head - Smart Wireless Division &
President of Wolfpac
BEN COLAYCO
COO - Level Up International
FRITZ KOHLE
Assistant Director
Production Services
Tisch of the Arts
POONAM KUMAR
Regional Director Motivational
Research TNS
DUNCAN MORRIS
VP - Research & Market Devt.,
Turner Intl. Asia Pacific
MIKE AMOUR
Chairman & CEO
Grey Group Asia Pacific
HELEN PEMBERTON
Director for Media Index
A/P Nielsen Media Research
TONY WRIGHT
Chairman
Lowe & Partners Worldwide
JAMES CHADWICK
Head of Strategy, Mindshare,
Asia Pacific
CHRISTOPH PROX
CEO - ICON Added Value
CHRIS NELSON
Managing Director
Philip Morris Phil. Mfg. Inc.
SANDY PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President - Philippine Daily Inquirer
LISA GOKONGWEI-CHENG
President - Summit Media
MARLON RIVERA
President - Publicis Manila

20th Philippine Advertising Congress
November 21 – 24, 2007
Subic Bay Exhibition and
Convention Center, Subic Bay
Freeport Zone
For registration, log-on to:
www.20thadcongress-theneworder.com

[illegible]

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (Sgd.)
President
Republic of the Philippines

Gathering Dreamlings and Nightmares with Neil Gaiman

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MEET ONE OF the greatest living post-modern authors, Neil Gaiman. Neil Gaiman is returning to the Philippines this November to speak at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress, and will also be having a special book reading just for his fans.

Gaiman is no stranger to "The New Order," the main theme of this year's Ad Congress, because it's largely because of his efforts that the "graphic novel" has come into its own as a legitimate and very popular art form.

Although he loved to read comics as a child, Gaiman's interest waned in his teens when he felt that he could learn nothing new from the medium. However, the emergence of the graphic novel in the 1970s and 1980s inspired Gaiman to become a comic book writer. During the early 1980s, he worked as a freelance journalist and editor until he was able to publish his first comic book, "Violent Cases", in collaboration with artist Dave McKean in 1987. Afterwards, Gaiman was invited by DC comics to do "Black Orchid". The success of this initial endeavour led him to write his most famous work, the seminal "Sandman" graphic novel series.

Gaiman has won numerous awards for his work, particularly the esteemed World Fantasy Award for his "Sandman" story, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" -the first and only comics script to ever win the award. He also has among his numerous citations several Hugo and Nebula Awards, the industry equivalent of the Academy Awards.

Now, the acclaimed British writer behind the groundbreaking "Sandman" comic book series and best-selling novels like "American Gods" and "Anansi Boys" is coming back to the Philippines to meet his fans and talk about the creative tools needed to cope with the new world order of today's media.

Just for Gaiman fans, the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress is presenting "A Gathering of Dreamlings and Nightmares" on Nov. 24 at 9 a.m. at the El Centro in Subic. Only 1,000 tickets are available for P1,500 each, including a signed "Beowulf" manuscript book! More of Neil Gaiman's books will be made available at the event courtesy of Fully Booked.

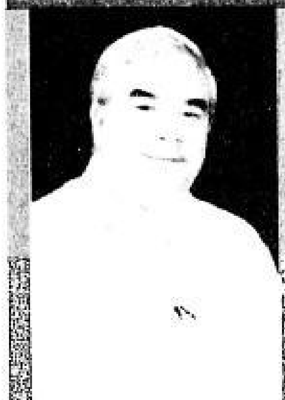
For inquiries, call 0915-6436040 or 751-8152 and look for Lucre Villaluna.

[illegible]

Comm. Feliciano G. Salonga PCGA (Sgd.)
Chairman / Head of Agency
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

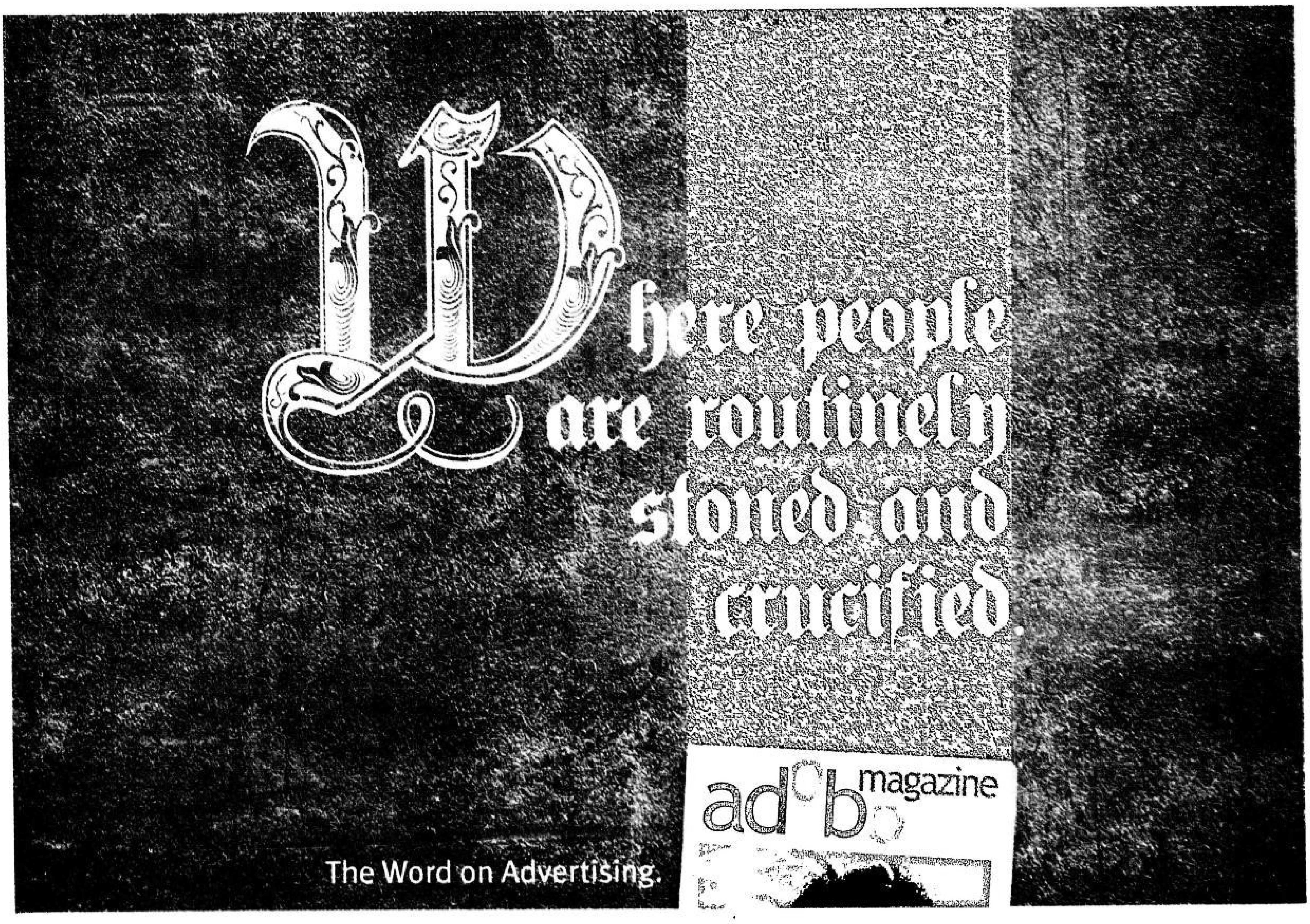
[illegible]

ARMAND C. ARREZA (Sgd.)
Administrator
Subic Bay Freeport Zone



[illegible]

ANDRE S. KAHN (Sgd.)
Chairman
Advertising Board of the Philippines



[illegible]

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (Sgd.)
President
Republic of the Philippines

Gathering Dreamlings and Nightmares with Neil Gaiman

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MEET ONE OF the greatest living post-modern authors, Neil Gaiman. Neil Gaiman is returning to the Philippines this November to speak at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress, and will also be having a special book reading just for his fans.

Gaiman is no stranger to "The New Order," the main theme of this year's Ad Congress, because it's largely because of his efforts that the "graphic novel" has come into its own as a legitimate and very popular art form.

Although he loved to read comics as a child, Gaiman's interest waned in his teens when he felt that he could learn nothing new from the medium. However, the emergence of the graphic novel in the 1970s and 1980s inspired Gaiman to become a comic book writer. During the early 1980s, he worked as a freelance journalist and editor until he was able to publish his first comic book, "Violent Cases", in collaboration with artist Dave McKean in 1987. Afterwards, Gaiman was invited by DC comics to do "Black Orchid". The success of this initial endeavour led him to write his most famous work, the seminal "Sandman" graphic novel series.

Gaiman has won numerous awards for his work, particularly the esteemed World Fantasy Award for his "Sandman" story, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" -the first and only comics script to ever win the award. He also has among his numerous citations several Hugo and Nebula Awards, the industry equivalent of the Academy Awards.

Now, the acclaimed British writer behind the groundbreaking "Sandman" comic book series and best-selling novels like "American Gods" and "Anansi Boys" is coming back to the Philippines to meet his fans and talk about the creative tools needed to cope with the new world order of today's media.

Just for Gaiman fans, the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress is presenting "A Gathering of Dreamlings and Nightmares" on Nov. 24 at 9 a.m. at the El Centro in Subic. Only 1,000 tickets are available for P1,500 each, including a signed "Beowulf" manuscript book! More of Neil Gaiman's books will be made available at the event courtesy of Fully Booked.

For inquiries, call 0915-6436040 or 751-8152 and look for Lucre Villaluna.

[illegible]

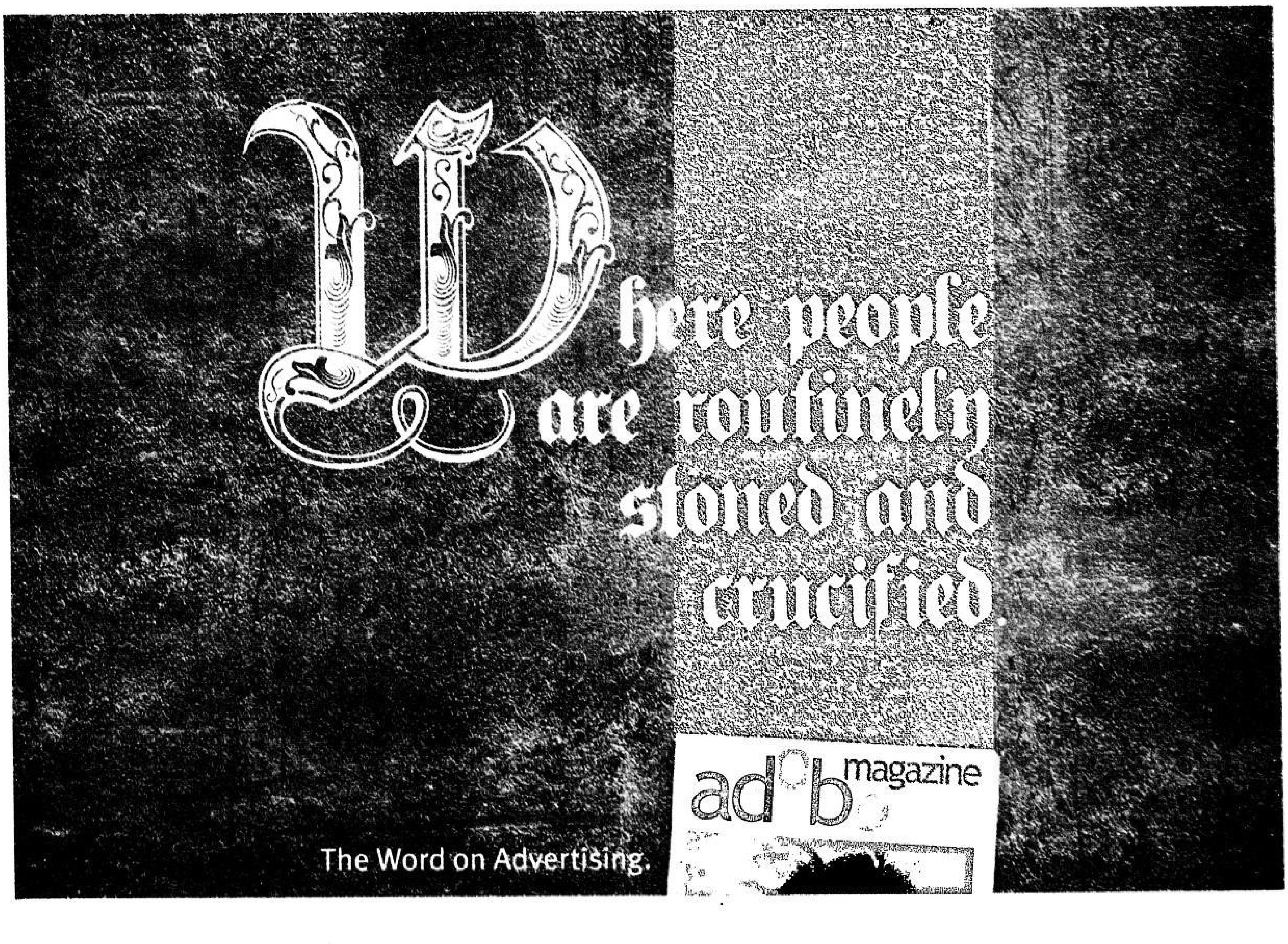
Comm. Feliciano G. Salonga, PCGA (Sgd.)
Chairman / Head of Agency
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

[illegible]

ARMAND C. ARREZA (Sgd.)
Administrator
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

[illegible]

ANDRE S. KAHN (Sgd.)
Chairman
Advertising Board of the Philippines


Where people are routinely stoned and crucified.
adobo magazine
The Word on Advertising.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (Sgd.)
President
Republic of the Philippines

Gathering Dreamlings and Nightmares with Neil Gaiman

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MEET ONE OF the greatest living post-modern authors, Neil Gaiman. Neil Gaiman is returning to the Philippines this November to speak at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress, and will also be having a special book reading just for his fans.

Gaiman is no stranger to "The New Order," the main theme of this year's Ad Congress, because it's largely because of his efforts that the "graphic novel" has come into its own as a legitimate and very popular art form.

Although he loved to read comics as a child, Gaiman's interest waned in his teens when he felt that he could learn nothing new from the medium. However, the emergence of the graphic novel in the 1970s and 1980s inspired Gaiman to become a comic book writer. During the early 1980s, he worked as a freelance journalist and editor until he was able to publish his first comic book, "Violent Cases", in collaboration with artist Dave McKean in 1987. Afterwards, Gaiman was invited by DC comics to do "Black Orchid". The success of this initial endeavour led him to write his most famous work, the seminal "Sandman" graphic novel series

Gaiman has won numerous awards for his work, particularly the esteemed World Fantasy Award for his "Sandman" story, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" -the first and only comics script to ever win the award. He also has among his numerous citations several Hugo and Nebula Awards, the industry equivalent of the Academy Awards.

Now, the acclaimed British writer behind the groundbreaking "Sandman" comic book series and best-selling novels like "American Gods" and "Anansi Boys" is coming back to the Philippines to meet his fans and talk about the creative tools needed to cope with the new world order of today's media.

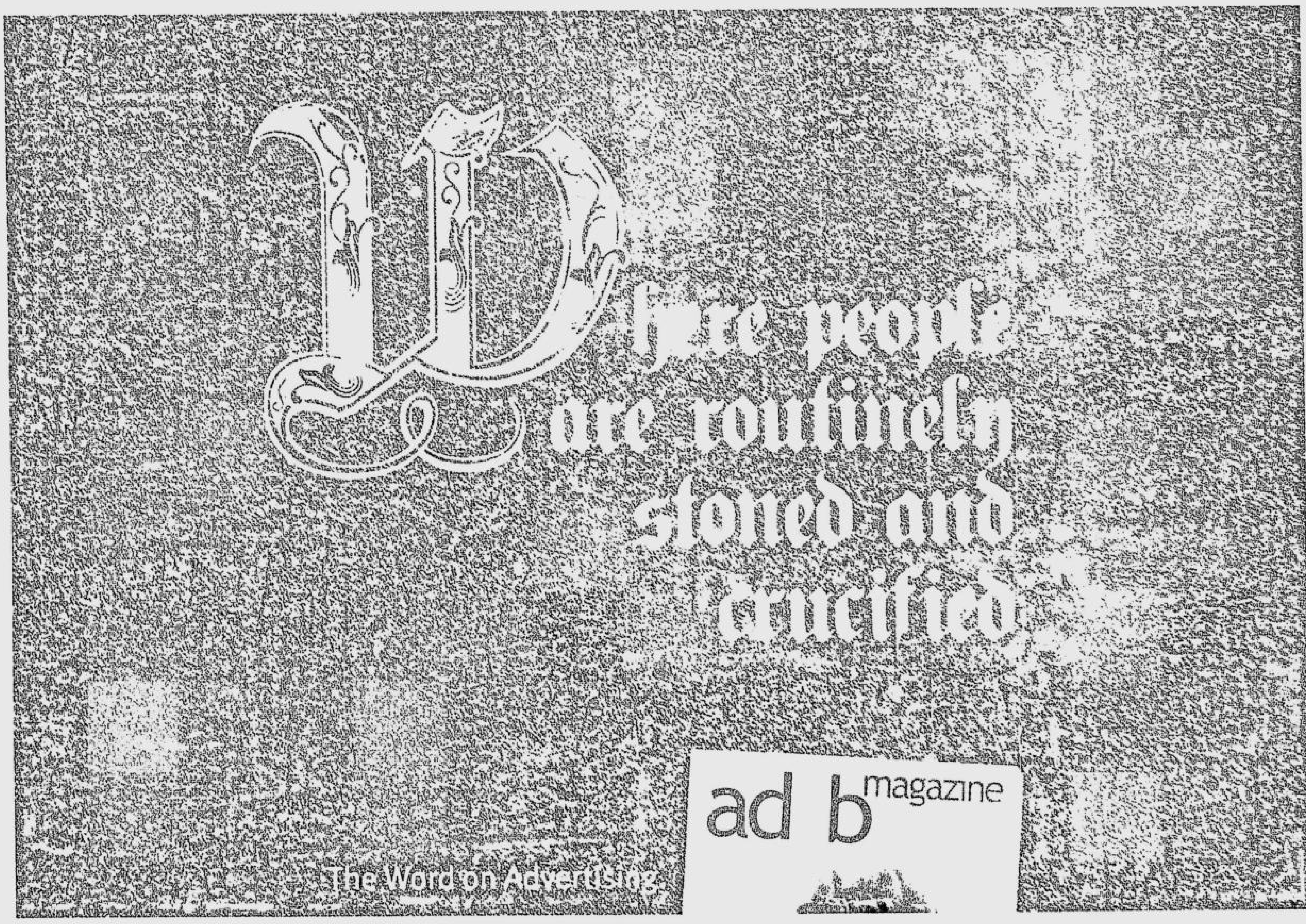
Just for Gaiman fans, the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress is presenting "A Gathering of Dreamlings and Nightmares" on Nov. 24 at 9 m the El Centro in Subic. Only 1,000 tickets ailable for P1,500 each, including a gned "Beowulf" manuscript book! More of Neil Gaiman's books will be made availabl t the event courtesy of Fully Booked.

For inquiries call 0915-6436040 '51-8152 and look for Lucre Villaluna

[illegible]

[illegible] (Sgd.)
[illegible]
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

[illegible]


Where people are routinely stoned and crucified.
ad b magazine
The Word on Advertising

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

It is my distinct pleasure to greet the organizers, participants and sponsors of the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress.

The 20th Philippine Advertising Congress, as a biennial industry event, will again bring together practitioners from the multi-sectoral advertising community to strengthen the capability and competitive edge of Philippine advertising [illegible] creative and efficient marketing communications that are truly and uniquely Filipino. In advocating the interests of your team and the advertising industry as a whole, I hope that it also demonstrates the industry's affirmation in the capacity of the Filipino to attain global standards as well as in [illegible]

May your diligence [illegible]

Let us all [illegible]

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (Sgd.)
President
Republic of the Philippines

Gathering Dreamlings and Nightmares with Neil Gaiman

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO MEET ONE OF the greatest living post-modern authors, Neil Gaiman. Neil Gaiman is returning to the Philippines this November to speak at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress, and will also be having a special book reading just for his fans.

Gaiman is no stranger to "The New Order," the main theme of this year's Ad Congress, because it's largely because of his efforts that the "graphic novel" has come into its own as a legitimate and very popular art form.

Although he loved to read comics as a child, Gaiman's interest waned in his teens when he felt that he could learn nothing new from the medium. However, the emergence of the graphic novel in the 1970s and 1980s inspired Gaiman to become a comic book writer. During the early 1980s, he worked as a freelance journalist and editor until he was able to publish his first comic book, "Violent Cases", in collaboration with artist Dave McKean in 1987. Afterwards, Gaiman was invited by DC comics to do "Black Orchid". The success of this initial endeavour led him to write his most famous work, the seminal "Sandman" graphic novel series.

Gaiman has won numerous awards for his work, particularly the esteemed World Fantasy Award for his "Sandman" story, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" -the first and only comics script to ever win the award. He also has among his numerous citations several Hugo and Nebula Awards, the industry equivalent of the Academy Awards.

Now, the acclaimed British writer behind the groundbreaking "Sandman" comic book series and best-selling novels like "American Gods" and "Anansi Boys" is coming back to the Philippines to meet his fans and talk about the creative tools needed to cope with the new world order of today's media.

Just for Gaiman fans, the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress is presenting "A Gathering of Dreamlings and Nightmares" on Nov. 24 at 9 a.m. at the El Centro in Subic. Only 1,000 tickets are available for P1,500 each, including a signed "Beowulf" manuscript book! More of Neil Gaiman's books will be made available at the event courtesy of Fully Booked.

For inquiries, call 0915-6436040 or 751-8152 and look for Lucre Villaluna.

[illegible] Subic Bay Freeport Zone [illegible] cre-[illegible] 20th Philippine Advertising Congress.

After exactly 7 years [illegible] 20th Philippine Advertising Congress.

[illegible]

Hosting the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress [illegible] Subic Bay Freeport Zone [illegible]

We are glad that the advertising industry will again be our partner [illegible]

[illegible] New Order [illegible]

My best wishes [illegible] Congress.

ARMAND C. ARREZA (Sgd.)
Administrator
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

It's more inspiring to me than serendipity that the Philippine Advertising Congress returns to Subic with me as Adboard Chairman, remembering that in 1993, I was the Ad Congress Chairman when we then [illegible] in Subic.

At that time, Subic was fighting for its own survival right after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo and the withdrawal of the US military forces. The facility was then running by the sheer optimism and selfless energy of a brave, and looking back we can now add far-sighted bunch of local volunteers. It is not surprising that we in the advertising industry were the first to recognize the potentials of Subic as a convention venue for we are a people that revel in breakthroughs and adventure.

Those of you who were present in 1993 will remember the high school gym where we held our plenary activities and awards program. No more than an oversized Quonset structure, it was filled to the rafters; we were sweating it out and having fun! This time we will have the more refined amenities of a real convention center but please be assured that it will be no less fun.

Today our industry and its governing organization, the Adboard, must do a Subic and re-invent ourselves not only to survive as Subic did but to thrive and succeed as we are sure Subic will. Welcome and indulge as the New Order unfolds.

ANDRE S. KAHN (Sgd.)
Chairman
Advertising Board of the Philippines

Congratulations to both our group-the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). Both deserve kudos for holding this much-awaited biennial affair.

For the Congress organizers, it is no mean feat to gather the best minds in the advertising industry and squeeze from them breakthrough ideas that [illegible] in this fast-changing world.

On the part of the SBMA, it is also no mean feat to assert itself as the ideal venue for this Congress. Other established venues are there, but Subic Bay has emerged as the chosen one.

Perhaps Subic Bay is indeed the best place to learn how to survive in The New Order.

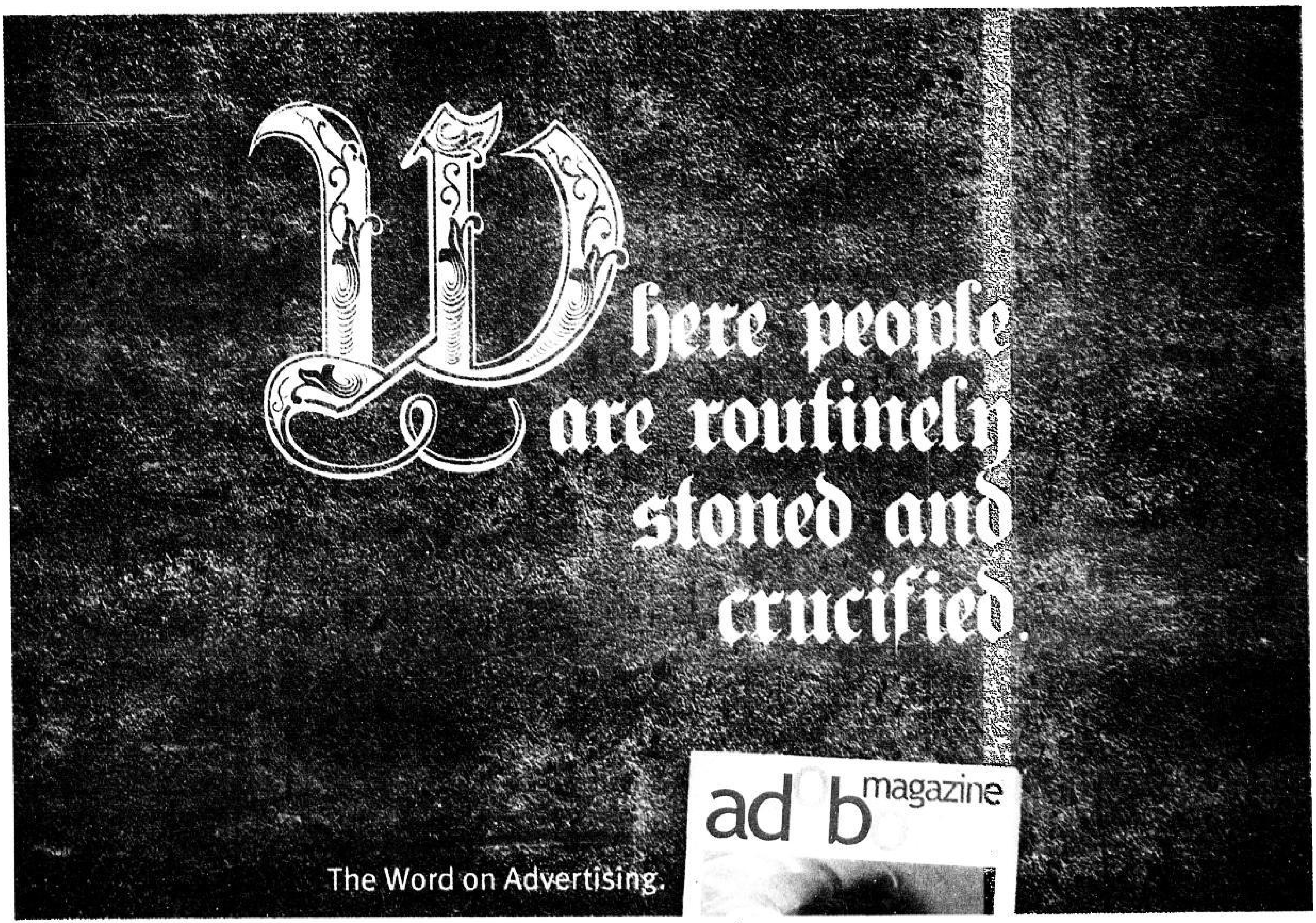
For one, the Aytas of Subic best show how to adapt [illegible] one of the world's most challenging environments [illegible] survival with the barest of resources.

Then the story of Subic Bay Freeport [illegible]

It is my fervent hope therefore that the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress would [illegible] The New Order.

Mabuhay and congratulations again!

Comm. Feliciano G. Salonga, PCGA (Sgd.)
Chairman / Head of Agency
Subic Bay Freeport Zone



RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

20th Philippine Advertising Congress Partners

ASAP

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

PANA
TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

UPMG
UNITED PRINT MEDIA GROUP

iba

MORES

SMART Money

The more you use your SMART MONEY, the closer you get to your dream prizes.

Simply use your SMART MONEY to earn raffle points for a chance to win these exciting prizes:

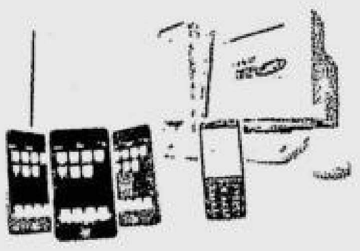
Montl Nokia N77. iPod Tot Nintendo Wi 1-yr SMART Br subscription package
Grand Prize Trip for four (4) to Hong Kong Disneyland with pocket money

To join, earn points by using your SMART MONEY on any of the following transactions:

- Airtime reload purchase
- Bills payment
- SMART MONEY purchase transactions (Mobile Payment or via MasterCard establishments)

GET YOUR FREE SMART MONEY AT THE NEAREST WIRELESS CENTER NOW!

See flyers for more details or call the SMART MONEY hotline at 15177 on your SMART cellphone or visit www.smart.com.ph



SMART MONEY
Prize Overload

5577 5171 4942 6117
CLARISSA C LOPEZ

Promo period : November 15, 2007 – January 31, 2008. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5656, series of 2007.

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

34
Days to go

A Zen-like mall opens in the east metro area

There was a fiesta like atmosphere when SM City Taytay recently opened its doors to the public. Higantes, giant-sized folk figures, and larger than life carabaos with arts and crafts inspirations greeted early morning shoppers at the entrance.

And when SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy and Rizal Province Governor Jun Jun Ynares, in the SM tradition, opened the doors to the first wave of shoppers, it was like a town fiesta as customers came in droves to quickly fill up the mall.

The celebratory mood started the day before, during SM City Taytay's blessing, and after a concelebrated Mass led by Bishop Gabriel Reyes and Bishop Emeritus of Antipolo Francisco de Leon.

The event was graced by top local officials from the area: Governor Ynares, Rep. Jack Duavit, former Governor Rebecca Ynares, and former Vice Governor Frisco San Juan from the province of Rizal; as well as Mayor Joric Gacula and Vice Mayor Janet Mercado from Taytay. The town's councilors also attended the event: Reggie Mascardo, Sharon de Leon Macabebe, Tacio Alcantara, Trece DI Cayton, Diane Esguerra, and Atoy Valle. SM officials led by Felicidad Sy, SM Prime Holdings president Hans T. Sy, SM Supermarket president Herbert Sy, and SM Investments Corp vice chairs Henry Sy Jr and Tessic Sy-Coson were also present.

Located on a 38,525-sqm site in Barangay Dolores in Taytay, it is SM Prime Holding's 29th Supermall, and has easy access to the Manila East Road. The 92,000-sqm Supermall will serve customers in Taytay, one of the lakeshore towns in Rizal Province, as well as nearby Antipolo City, Angono, Binangonan, and Cainta.

SM City Taytay's innovative mall design will make it a destination in the rapidly developing area. It is composed of two buildings connected by a bridgeway for customer convenience. A defi-

A ZEN-LIKE/12

Light, music festival to make Bonifacio Global City the Christmas destination

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, METRO Manila residents and other visitors have the best chances of keenly experiencing the spirit of Christmas at Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. At the 240-hectare premiere business district, the Yuletide season will be celebrated in a big way through "Sparks of Passion", a Christmas light and music festival running daily until Dec. 30.

Ten-minute music programs synchronized with a light display will be presented from 7 p.m. up to midnight each evening. According to Jun Bisnar, head of commercial operations of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp, the music and light show is meant to give the viewer a "multi-sensory, al fresco experience" within selected locations of the district.

The light and music display will be presented at The Fort Square, in front of Embassy, and at the activity park near All Flip Flops and near TGIFridays, of Bonifacio High Street-the kilometer-long city center featuring a landscaped park flanked on both sides with the flagship stores of various retailers and other one-of-a-kind concepts, One of the rare places in Metro Manila with a lengthy al fresco strip that allows visitors to enjoy natural ventilation, Bonifacio High Street is positioned to be the star attraction of the "Sparks of Passion" Festival.

"Because it is a relaxing place, it's the best place to get into the Christmas spirit," he says. "People like to lounge outside here. We've added music and lights to help them feel the joyful mood of the season."

The engaging light and music display draws inspiration from the shows that are staged in historical locations in Europe and the United States. People don't just go to these landmarks but actually experience events there so they can better appreciate the place, according to Bisnar. "We want people to likewise focus on the various locations of Bonifacio Global City," he says. "The show enhances the attractions of each location."

The "Sparks of Passion" Christmas Light and Music Festival complements other activities that have made Bonifacio Global City a Christmas destination. These include the flagship stores of Bonifacio High Street, the specialty stores of Serendra, and the bargain haunts of Market! Market! Christmas bazaars are also held every weekend in November and December at the NBC Tent featuring items with global brands that are made in the Philippines and the Streetshops at The Fort offering fruits, fireworks and homemade items.

> 'The 'Sparks of Passion' Christmas Light and Music Festival complements other activities that have made Bonifacio Global City a Christmas destination'

ACE®
The helpful place.
CHRISTMAS TREATS

Landlite Strawberry LED Bulbs
- LED 220-S50U/M
- 50 pcs
- Red / Multicolor

P599.75

Landlite Snowflakes LED Bulbs
- LED 220-S50D/M
- 50 pcs
- White / Multicolor

P699.75

Energizer 1Hr. Charger
- Top 5 selling charger in the world

P2,749.75

Energizer X-Focus 216
- LED light brighter & never needs replacing

P364.75

P2,549.75
Kyowa Vacuum Cleaner KW-6030

Cafe Retro
- 500 ml. coffee maker
- 2 sets ceramic mug, saucer and spoon

P499.75

50 SONY 29" Wega Flat TV winners
50 SONY Ericsson K800i winners
50 iPOD Nano 4Gb winners
50 CANON Ixus i7 Zoom winners
50 LG Personal Ref winners
50 AMERICAN HERITAGE microwave oven winners

get a chance to WIN one of these prizes!

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase entitles you to a raffle coupon.

Landlite LED Bulbs
- LED 220-50/M
- 50 pcs
- Multicolor

P449.75

Landlite Corn LED Bulbs
- LED 220-S26L/WW
- 26 pcs
- Warm white

P599.75

P699.75 Omni Dynamo LED Torch DLT-023PK
Omni LED Torch DLT-198N P1,449.75

Omni Multi Purpose LED Lamp BLT-218PK
P199.75ea

Pet Accessories
Pethouse Square Medium P2,195 Small P1,895
Petyard Hexagonal Medium P2,495 Small P2,195

Keyway Taiwan-made Storage Boxes
A. K400 P399.75
B. K600 P499.75
C. K800 P599.75
D. K1200 P799.75
E. K1200 P899.75

Sponsored by: OMNI Electrical & Lighting, Chef's Choice, Akari, American Heritage, Energizer, Cool Air, California Scents, Sony Xplod, Plastic Kingdom

DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING WITH YOUR

NOW THRU DECEMBER 31

ACE BUILDERS CENTER
paint & decorating · outdoor living · plumbing · electricals · home organization · home safety · home basics · powertools · car care
Life is an ongoing project.
ACE The helpful place.
Available at all ACE Hardware stores located at:

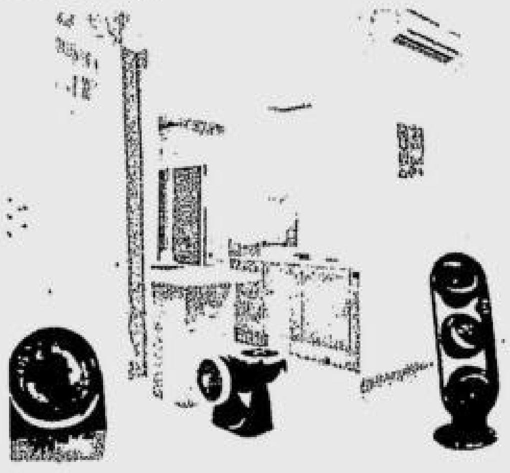
Honeywell Air Circulators for your interior

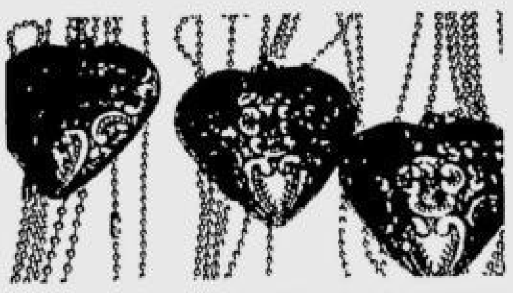
SHOPPING FOR THAT PERFECT FAN TO complement your interiors can definitely be a problem. Mismatched colors, faux finishes, and bulky designs make it a sore thumb in the interesting mix of your interior, making you want to hide these fans whenever you can.

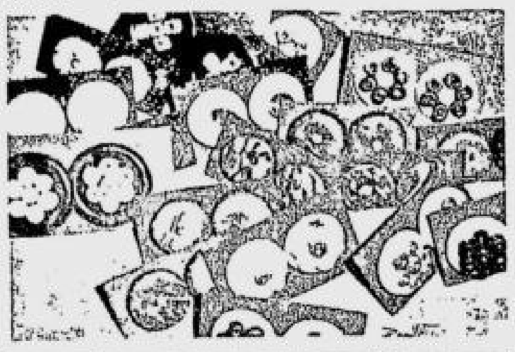
To solve this problem, Kaz USA, a trusted healthcare and home environment products manufacturer, has come up with Honeywell Air Circulators. Designed by an American Industrial Team, its round and streamlined design matches the modern motif of any home. It also has the single, twin, multi-pivot and tower air circulator designs to blow the conventional single fan away. The Honeywell air circulator is a fusion of trends of state-of-the-art technology and innovative design, breaking the traditional concept of a fan as a simple fanning instrument. Its revolutionary Turbo Force Technology enhances the oscillation of cool air from your air conditioner and evenly distributes it around your room.

What's more, it's energy saving and environment-friendly. Test results of a room's temperature reveal that as cool air from the air conditioners flows downwards, a difference of 3°C can be distinguished between the upper and lower parts of the room. However, with the use of a Honeywell air circulator, the temperature difference drops to 0.5°C in 10 minutes while traditional fans can only drop the difference to 1°C after 150 minutes. The faster your room becomes cold, the less energy you consume. The increased air flow also allows the air conditioning system to be used at lower settings to help you save money.

Discover infinite ways to get that innovation, look, savings and style. Grab a Honeywell air circulator now. For more information, visit or call its showrooms: Shangri-La (631-8282), and Serendra (856-2518); MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (815-8875). It's also available in leading appliance, home improvement, and membership shopping stores and hypermarts.







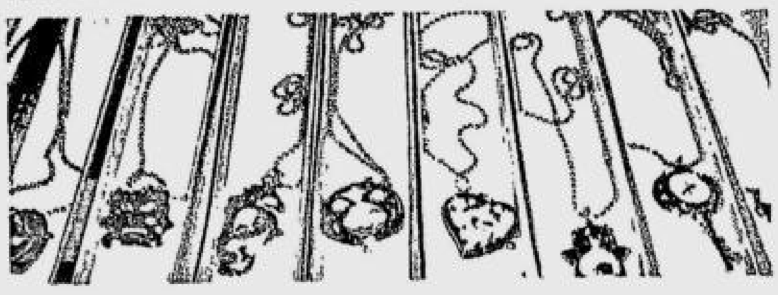
Fabulous gifts, fabulous finds!

TRUE STYLE NEED NOT BE expensive. It's all about the quality, smart choices and unique pieces you can match to suit your personal taste and individuality.

Good news to fashionistas, accessory lovers and for those looking for great gifts this Christmas, Manila's best kept secret for fabulous finds now offers the latest trends for elegant and stylish pieces in very, very low prices.

Where else? One can only find the best Christmas shopping experience in Tutuban Night Market.

From 7:30 p.m. to 12 midnight, shoppers can take their sweet time visiting each stall which offers the finest designs of accessories in the market before it reaches the more expensive shopping malls. Pick a gift for your best friend, your mom, your loved ones or for yourself! In Tutuban, you do not only get the best products with the best bargains, it allows you to be the trendsetter that you really are.



THE 'VILLAGE SATCHEL'
Cole Haan's Village Soft Triple Zip Satchel in gunmetal with artisan hand-stitched details. Leather covered and satin nickel hardware on black and polished brass hardware on luggage; antique brass on gray. 8" shoulder straps. Triple compartment design. Zip closures. Canvas lining. Interior zip, cell and PDA pockets. Cole Haan boutiques are located at the Rockwell Power Plant, Glorietta 4 and Shangri-La Mall.

Tower Book House mini fair

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE CHRISTMAS season, Tower Book House is holding a mini-book fair of Filipiniana books ongoing until Dec. 31 at Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Makati City. Among the books that shall be sold at discounted prices are: "The Ilocos Heritage"; "Cultural Icons of the Philippines"; "The Barong Tagalog: The Millennium Edition"; "Churches of Pangasinan"; "The Heart Has Its Reasons"; "Grace and Magic." For inquiries, call 815-4938 or 8156925.

Noel Discovery Bazaar starts today

GET YOUR KIDS GEARED UP WITH uniquely designed fashionable clothes as they enjoy the fun activities offered during the Christmas season.

Made from high quality and child-friendly materials, these clothes will surely keep your babies warm throughout the winter-like Holiday celebrations in our tropical country.

Whether it's for your new born baby or for your fast growing toddler, these clothes of all sizes, colors, styles and designs are exclusively available at GMA Network's Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shop Expo from Nov. 21 to 25 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Most importantly, feel the true Christmas spirit as bazaar proceeds from fashion auctions will help the beneficiaries of GMA Kapuso Foundation's Give-A-Gift Alay sa Batang Pinoy, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation and the Associate Missionaries of Assumption Foundation.

This event is made possible by GMA Network, Seair, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Centrex, QTV, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Foreign Post, Summit Media, Barangay LS-FM, Max 103.5, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, Inquirer.net, Clickthecity.com and femalenetwork.com.

The event will benefit the projects of GMA Kapuso, Bantayog ng mga Bayani and Associate Missionaries of the Assumption Foundation. For inquiries, Cut Unlimited may be reached through 687-0654, 687-3292 or e-mail noelbazaars@gmail.com.

Tell us your Xando story and win a trip to HK

ARE YOU ONE OF THE SUCcessful Xando Block and Burn users? Did you recently say goodbye to flab and are you currently sporting the fab look? If you are, then tell us your story! Join Xando and Mega magazine's "Goodbye flab, hello fab promo."

With its astounding weight loss results, Xando Block Burn is now everybody's best friend. After all, no other dietary supplement can block out calories from carbohydrates, starch, and sugar from rice, noodles, pasta and bread. And because of the visible results, Xando users are even more inspired to embark on a healthy lifestyle.

"Goodbye flab, hello fab promo" is open to all Xando users with a successful Xando weight-loss story to tell. Address your letter to Xando and focus on how the dietary supplement helped you achieve your ideal weight. The letter should be submitted together with a full body before and after (using Xando) photos, name, age, address, contact numbers and the original tape receipt of a Xando Block and Burn product purchased from Sep. 1 to Dec. 31.

Entries must be mailed to Perfectaire Inc, Unit 3A City Center Building, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan. Deadline for submission is Dec. 31.

The panel of judges is composed of representatives from Xando marketing group and Mega magazine. Entries will be judged based on the editorial content (60 percent) and the sender's overall appeal before and after taking Xando Block and Burn (40 percent). The lucky winner will win a three-day/two-night trip to Hong Kong for two (package covers airfare, hotel accommodation and $1,000 pocket money), Xando gift products, a one-year Mega magazine subscription and a makeover and pictorial feature for its Feb 2008 issue.

Xando
Block&Burn
Tablets

Non-winners are qualified to join the raffle promo on Dec. 10 at the Perfectaire head office. Prizes include iPod Nanos, Nokia 6070s, Xando gift packs and Mega magazine subscriptions.

Yule-go-wild! A Village Christmas Bazaar

THE YUPANGCO EXHIBITS AND SHOWS IN COOPERAtion with Zoobic Foundation (Save A Cub Program) would like to invite you this holiday season to come and join the biggest beyond seasons... beyond extraordinary... Yuletide treat! "Yule-go-wild! A Village Christmas Bazaar" slated on Dec. 14, 15 and 16, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at A Venue Hall, Makati Avenue, Makati City. A 3-day event that will highlight over 200 concessionaires and exhibitors, with state-of-the-art Fashion Boulevard, Entertainment Plaza, Village Market, Motor Alley, Animal Park and colorful fireworks display, amazing animal rides for the young and old, live performances from prominent recording artists, musical chorale and a child-friendly petting zoo, guests will surely be pampered to experience a vivacious kind of entertainment. For inquires, please call the project secretariat of "Yule-go-wild! A Village Christmas Bazaar" at tel. nos. 899-9808, 899-9828, 899-9824, 899-9818.

A Zen-like mall opens in the east metro area

From page 11

nite departure from the usual box mall design, it has color blocks on its façade, and a series of glass panels that offer a scenic view along the bridgeway.

There is something Zen-like and minimalist about the mall's interiors, with Japanese woodblock prints serving as the design handle for the mall's graphics. The Food Court has a trellis design in its ceilings and Japanese lantern ceiling lights; while the cinema has a series of red, yellow, blue, and purple panels with minimalist graphics. There are playful touches that enhance the mall's serene mood-louvers look outside to a blue wall so shoppers feel they are looking out in the sky.

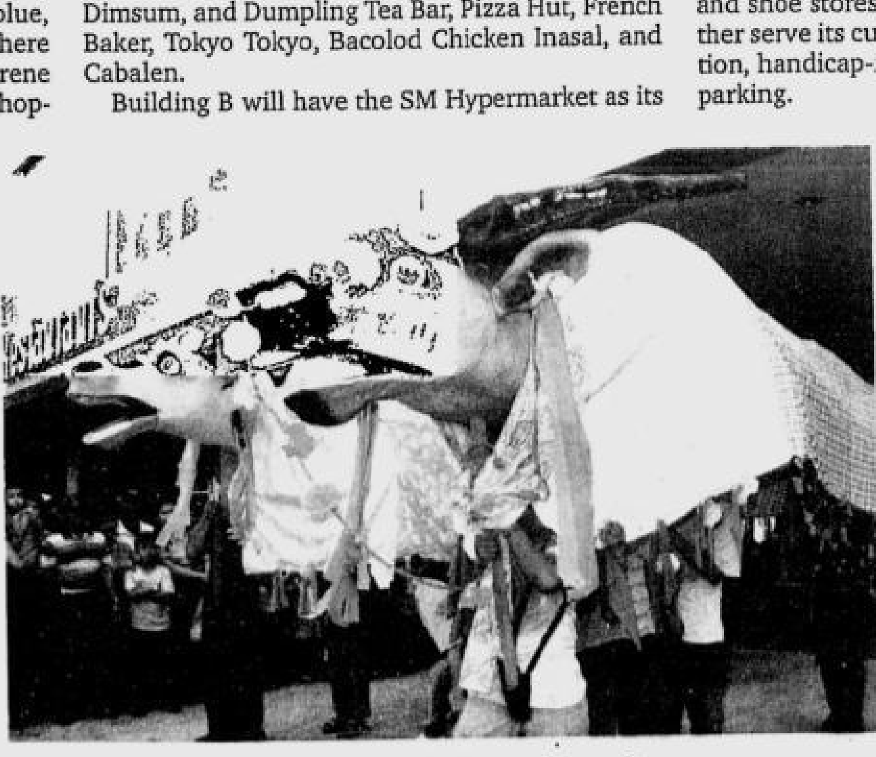
Building A has the SM Department Store as its major anchor, along with other mainstays, the SM Appliance Center and the Surplus Shop. It has a National Bookstore outlet, as well as fashion boutiques like Folded and Hung, Kamiseta, Bench, Oxygen, Penshoppe, Arrow, Mossimo, Von Dutch, Shapes, Gingersnaps, Mint Boutique, Genevieve, Tribal, and Dickies. Foodies will have a wonderful food trip with well-loved fast-food outlets like McDonald's and Dairy Queen to restaurants like Max, Dimsum, and Dumpling Tea Bar, Pizza Hut, French Baker, Tokyo Tokyo, Bacolod Chicken Inasal, and Cabalen.

Building B will have the SM Hypermarket as its major retail anchor, together with ACE hardware and three state-of-the-art cinemas are also be located in the area. Major fast-food chains like Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich, and Red Ribbon, as well as the restaurant Floring's provide the eating out fun. Telecommunications and computer stores will also be found here.

SM City Taytay will also have health and beauty stores, optical stores, jewelry stores, sports shop and shoe stores, as well as service outlets. To further serve its customers, it has a breastfeeding station, handicap-friendly facilities, and 608 slots for parking.

SM City Taytay's design team consists of Jose Siao Ling and Associates, architect of record; DA Abcede and Associates, project manager, and New Golden City Builders and Development Corp, general associates, DSGN Associates is the mall designer.

SHARING honors with the ribbon cutting ceremony are (from left) Gov. Junjun Ynares, Rep. Jack Duavit, SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, Bishop Gabriel Reyes, Bishop Emeritus Francisco de Leon, Felicidad Sy, SM Supermarket president for marketing Herbert Sy, Taytay Mayor George Gacula and Vice Mayor Janet Mercado.



COLORFUL carabaos brought a folksy feeling to the opening.

SHOWN are (left) Gov. Rebecca Ynares and SM Investment Corp vice chair Henry Sy Jr.

Carlo's: La vera pizza

INE PHILIPPINES, IF ONE AFTER do: their early Christmas shopping crafor true pizza like the ancients made it flat, unleavened bread cooked in eah wood fired ovens, dazzled with diffartoppings, one thinks only of la vera pizhe true pizza-Carlo's Pizza.

Iernal Baguio, Carlo's is thriving at Cajohn Hay and SM City. In Metro Manila, just a few minutes drive from the hef the city, at BF Homes and Moonwalk Villin Parañaque and at SM Mall of Asia. Ard 50 kms south of the capital, it has a brain scenic Tagaytay.

Dd the traditional way

Ihd its marble-topped counters, the cren their smart white chef uniforms, whup dough the traditional way using extirgin olive oil to give their pizza such arond taste distinct to Carlo's Pizza.

Te are 17 pizza varieties to choose frosure to raise eye brows in Naples, wht is believed there are only two kinds: thegherita, named after their queen, reseng the Italian flag with mozzarella, basd pomodoro tomatoes, and the Marinaro named because this was what the fishen ate when they returned home froeir fishing trips in the Bay of Naples.

Tpecial Capriccioso has almost everythim it: pepperoni, salameti, ham, Italiansage, bacon and vegetables. For those advirous palates, there is the Double Dewo different flavors in one pizza. Ergo, can have half Abruzzi (meat lovers pizand half Sardinia (sardines with blaolives) and enjoy the best of both woi

P in 11 varieties and soups (mushroond seafood tomato) also simmer in CarPizza's kitchen: sicondi (second dishes): salmon steak and buffalo wings (chin), and dolci (desserts) like panna cottalzone with three great filling choices made like mama mia's.

Poend peasant

Itn priest Father Paulo O. Pirlo, of the Sonf Holy Mary Immaculate, recounts how the pizza has evolved from a humble food for the poor to tide them over winter when food was scarce, to a special treat the whole year round, befitting the most celebrated poet.

"At first, the aristocracy balked at the idea of eating peasant food, but now, everyone in Italy considers it a treat," he explains. "In fact, my family in Genoa constructed a brick oven in our backyard to make our own pizza," he laughs, showing a picture taken during his last sojourn to his birthplace.

That's Amore!

The European bistro ambiance of the place is such a welcome delight after a hard day's grind at the office. There is a choice of dining in the warmth of the tastefully decorated interior or al fresco, where one can see the world passing by.

One look at the huge oven that dominates the place, wafting the aroma of incomparable crust with a crisp exterior and tender interior, the tangy scent of aged cheese that melts in the mouth and the burst of flavors emanating from the succulent toppings of meat, veggies and spices and one is ready to sing a la Dean Martin: "When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore!"

GLORIA Ramos and Rommel Acosta, franchisees of Carlo's Pizza at SM Mall of Asia

Carlo's Pizza
more than just pizza...

AT THE Tagaytay branch

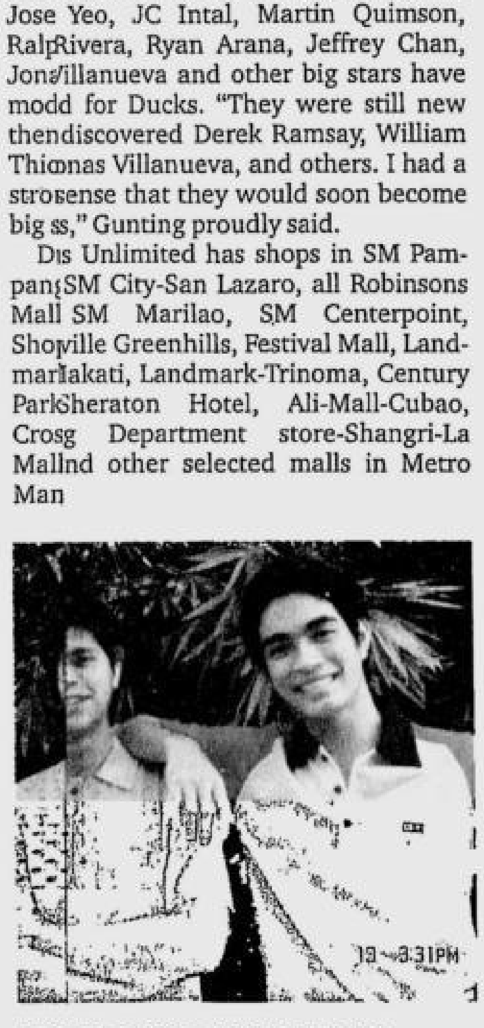
Fiture stars nodel Ducks

REBLLA

DE. SALLE-ZOBEL CAMPUS CUTIES Crismulla, Mark Golden and Ateneo's Ginchavez and Victor Anastacio recently jointhe roster of Ducks Unlimited models. e always look for fresh models, and theyend with our image, which is that posie, wholesome and productive attitudDucks publicist Shane Ayo Gunting saidcently. Conservative, durable, and clasthese have been just some of the adjecti attributed to the brand.

Se of today's big male stars and ketb players like William Thio, Baron Geis Dominic Ochoa, Sunday Salvacion, Jose Yeo, JC Intal, Martin Quimson, RalpRivera, Ryan Arana, Jeffrey Chan, JonVillanueva and other big stars have modd for Ducks. "They were still new thendiscovered Derek Ramsay, William Thiomas Villanueva, and others. I had a strosense that they would soon become big ss," Gunting proudly said.

Dis Unlimited has shops in SM Pampan; SM City-San Lazaro, all Robinsons Mall SM Marilao, SM Centerpoint, Shopville Greenhills, Festival Mall, Landmarlakati, Landmark-Trinoma, Century ParkSheraton Hotel, Ali-Mall-Cubao, Crosg Department store-Shangri-La Mallnd other selected malls in Metro Man



ECHVEZ AND ANASTACIO

10 Delightful Years IN THE PHILIPPINES
Canon
Delighting You Always

PowerShot A460
•5.0 Megapixels
•5.08 cm (2.0") LCD screen
•4x Optical Zoom
•DIGIC II engine
~~Php 9,950~~
Now Php 8,950

PowerShot A550
•7.1 Megapixels
•5.08 cm (2.0") LCD screen
•4x Optical Zoom
•DIGIC II engine
Php 13,500

PowerShot A560
•7.1 Megapixels
•6.35 cm (2.5") LCD screen
•4x Optical Zoom
•DIGIC III engine
Php 5,950

PowerShot A570 IS
•7.1 Megapixels
•6.35 cm (2.5") LCD screen
•4x Optical Zoom
•Optical Image Stabilizer
~~Php 18,950~~
Now Php 16,950

Enjoy up to Php 2,300 worth of free items! Premium items vary according to model purchased

Energizer Batteries and charger
Powershot camera case
SD card

PowerShot
A GREAT SHOT EVERY TIME

NEW!
PowerShot A720 IS
•8.0 Megapixels
•6x Optical Zoom
•6.35 cm (2.5") LCD screen
•Optical Image Stabilizer
Php 19,950

NEW!
PowerShot SX100 IS
•8 Megapixels
•6.35 cm (2.5") LCD screen
•10x Optical Zoom
•Optical Image Stabilizer
Php 21,950

NEW!
PowerShot A650 IS
•12.1 Megapixels
•6x Optical Zoom
•6.35 cm (2.5") Vari-angle LCD screen
•Optical Image Stabilizer
Php 24,950

PowerShot TX1
•7.1 Megapixels
•3.81 cm (1.5") vari-angle LCD screen
•10x Optical Zoom with Optical Image Stabilizer
•DIGIC III engine
Php 26,995

NEW!
PowerShot S5 IS
•8.0 Megapixels
•6.35 cm (2.5") Vari-angle LCD screen
•12x Optical Zoom
•Optical Image Stabilizer
Php 27,950

NEW!
PowerShot G9
•12.1 Megapixels
•7.62 cm (3.0") PureColor LCD II Screen
•6x Optical Zoom
•Optical Image Stabilizer
•RAW Image Recording
Php 31,950

NEW!
Digital IXUS 860 IS
•8 Megapixels
•7.62 cm (3.0") PureColor LCD screen
•3.8x Optical Zoom
•Wide Angle 28-105mm lens
Php 24,950

0% interest for 12 mos.*

DIGITAL IXUS
Where style meets substance

I want exceptional images this Christmas.

Digital IXUS 70
•7.1 Megapixels
•6.35 cm (2.5") PureColor LCD screen
•3x Optical Zoom
•Slimmer Body – 19.4 mm
~~Php 19,950~~
Now Php 17,950

Digital IXUS 75
•7.1 Megapixels
•7.62 cm (3.0") PureColor LCD screen
•3x Optical Zoom
•Slimmer Body – 19.6 mm
~~Php 22,500~~
Now Php 19,950

Digital IXUS 950 IS
• 8.0 Megapixels
• 4x Optical Zoom
• 6.35 cm (2.5") Pure Color LCD screen
• Optical Image Stabilizer
Php 26,950

NEW!
Digital IXUS 960 IS
•12.1 Megapixels
•6.35 cm (2.5") PureColor LCD screen
•3.7x Optical Zoom
•Titanium Body
Php 28,950

Enjoy the Holidays with
FREE ITEMS worth up to Php 10,000!
FREE ITEMS: camera case, 1GB SD card and 1 pair of Ray-Ban eyewear

METRO MANILA
MANILA:
•Sarabia Optical (SM Mall of Asia)
•The Optical Shop (Robinson's Ermita)
•The Optical Shop (SM Centerpoint)
MAKATI:
•The Optical Shop (G1)
•The Optical Shop (G3)
•Canon Customer Care Centre
5F Marvin Plaza Building 2153
Don Chino Roces
Avenue Makati City
(02) 884-9000
ORTIGAS:
•Sarabia Optical (SM Megamall)
•The Optical Shop (SM Megamall)
NORTH:
•Sarabia Optical (SM North Edsa)
•The Optical Shop (SM North Edsa)
•The Optical Shop (Trinoma)

MANDALUYONG
•Canon Customer Care Centre
Liberty Center, Freedom Plaza Retail Row,
G/F Unit 1 and 2 Shaw Boulevard
(02) 534 7358
SOUTH
•Perez Optical (ATC)
•George Optical (SM Batangas)
•George Optical (SM Dasmarinas)
•Optical Works (SM Southmall)

PROVINCIAL
PAMPANGA:
•George Optical (SM Pampanga)
•Canon Pampanga Office, Pistahan Bldg.,
Mc Arthur Highway Dolores,
City of San Fernando Pampanga
(045)961-6496

CEBU:
•The Optical Shop (SM Cebu)
•The Optical Shop (Ayala Center)
•Canon Cebu Office Door 10, 1P & 20
Free Star Arcade, Hernan St.Subangdaku,
Mandaue City Cebu
(032)345-3821, 3446776, 345-3680
BACOLOD:
•Anglo Optical (SM Bacolod)
DAVAO:
•Chimes Department Store
•Canon Davao Office, 301 E. Palma Gil Bo.
Obrero, Davao City
(082) 227-4820
•Canon DHub
1st Level South Concourse,
Limketkai Mall
Agorra Road Lapasan
Cagayan De Oro City
(088)8563313
•Canon LA UNION Office
G/F M. Peralta Bldg.
Quezon Ave.,
Sevilla Norte
San Fernando City, La Union
(072)242-4587, 242-0440
•Canon Legaspi Office
Door 7 & 8 CEA Bldg.
Ground Flr. Lapu-Lapu st.
Legaspi City
(052)820-2083, 480-5331

Redeem your preferred Ray-Ban eyewear at any of the outlets listed below by presenting the following:
1. Original sales invoice
2. Redemption voucher with Ray-Ban hologram
3. Warranty card
4. Cut-portion of digital camera box where the Canon Customer Delight sticker and serial number are located.

Complete requirements are necessary to redeem participating Ray-Ban eyewear.

Ray-Ban eyewear
camera case
1GB SD card
Premium items vary according to model purchased.

SELPHY
COMPACT PHOTO PRINTER

NEW!
SELPHY CP740
• 5.08cm (2") LCD
• Easy to use card slot
• Red eye color correction
• Addition of borderless layouts
Php 7,496

NEW!
SELPHY CP750
• Large 6.35cm (2.4") LCD
• Battery operable
• Easy to use card slot
• Accomodates IrSimple high speed infrared communication
Php [illegible]500

NEW!
SELPHY ES20
• Dye-sublimation technology
• More creative printouts
• Integrated ink and paper
• My Colors Function
• ID photo printing
[illegible]

SELPHY ES1
• Dye-sublimation technology
• Creative printouts (4 sets)
• Integrated ink and paper
• Infrared
Php 15,995

Enjoy up to Php 1,000 worth of freebies. Premium items given vary according to the model purchased.

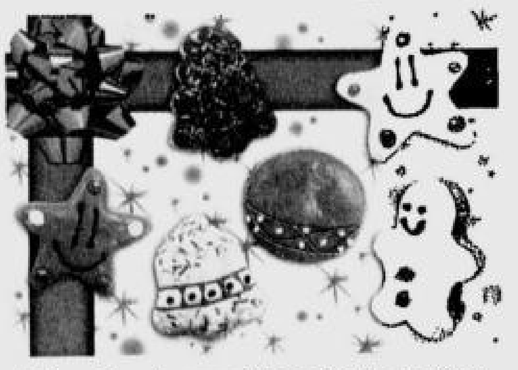
SELPHY Photo Diary and Scrapbook by KartON
SELPHY bag

Canon ImageNation HOLIDAY!

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2/F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St. Makati City

*Available for credit cards of participating dealers.
Promo runs from October 23, 2007 to January 15, 2008
See catalogue and flyer for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3699 Series of 2007

The shape of Christmas to Come



THERE'S NOTHING LIKE AN ARRAY OF sumptuous treats to celebrate the holidays: creamy chocolates, frostings in every flavor, and candy sprinkles in rainbow colors, which can excite the appetite and entice the palate. You don't need to wait for Santa to fill your Christmas socks with delectable goodies to satisfy your sweet tooth. Just head to the nearest Hot Loops branch and treat yourself to a bite or two of their Christmas donuts.

Fancy a snowman? Try Snow Boy, a chocolate-filled snowman-shaped donut covered in white chocolate frosting topped with cookie bits. Chocolate drizzles bring out his eyes and smile, while strawberry dots button up his shirt. Have a ball with Pasko-de-Bola, a chocolate-filled round donut covered in merry red frosting and decorated with green drizzle and white dots. Make your sweet wishes come true with Star Loops, chocolate-filled star-shaped donuts topped with yellow frosting. Chocolate drizzle makes the stars grin, while red and green dots make them shine.

Looking for the perfect tree to usher in the holidays? Grab a Christmas Treet, a tree-shaped donut filled with chocolate goodness and topped with green frosting. Candy sprinkles in every color ornament the tree. Top your Christmas tree with Santa's Star, a chocolate-filled star donut covered in red frost. Each end is dotted with white and green, adding delicious sparkle to the star. Ring in the festive season with Loopy Bell, a chocolate-filled bell-shaped donut covered in yellow frost. White chocolate dots and colored candy sprinkles decorate the delicious bell.

Hot Loops Christmas donuts make the festive celebration more fun and exciting. Its variety of shapes, colors, and flavors will bring smiles to kids from 1 to 92. Check out Hot Loops outlets in selected Robinsons Supermarkets and Robinsons Malls, as well as all Ministop Convenience Stores. Hot Loops shops are also located in key areas in Metro Manila. Hot Loops Donuts are available for dealership. For more information, please call (02) 672-2331/2349 or 0922-819-5642/ 0922-819-5668.

The perfect holiday gift for new moms (and moms to be)

CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORner, and already people are on the lookout great gifts for family and friends. For those with new or expecting mothers on their list of people to give gifts to, it can be pretty frustrating to look for that perfect present: should you give the usual baby clothes set, or rattle set, or booties and cap set?

This Christmas, why not give them a gift that can make baby care truly easy and hassle-free for them? The Avent Express Electric Steam Sterilizer Starter Set, from leading infant feeding brand Avent, has most of the basic items needed for feeding their baby and more, making it the perfect gift for parents.

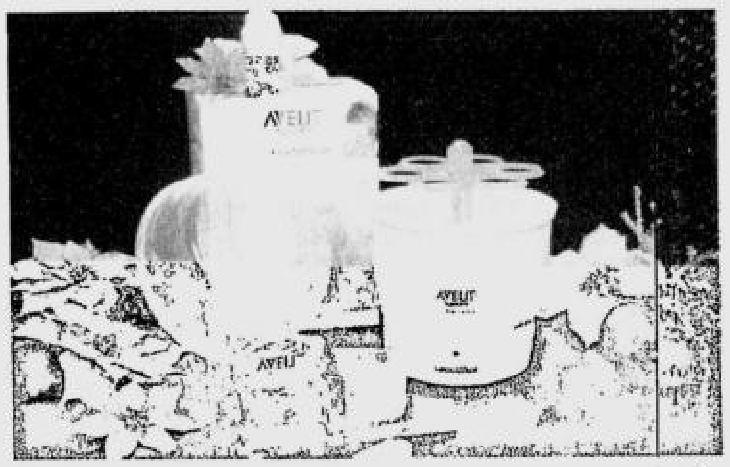
This starter set's main feature is the Avent Express Electric Steam Sterilizer, which provides a safe, fast, and easy way to sterilize breast and bottle feeding equipment. The Avent Express uses the hospital method to sterilize baby feeding items in approximately 8 minutes. Moms and dad can just put water and switch on the sterilizer, and the appropriate heat of the steam will rapidly kill all the harmful bacteria in the bottles which may cause tummy upsets in newborn babies. With this sterilizer, there's no need to put any sterilizing solution, or nor will it leave a nasty after-taste or smell on your baby's feeding items.

The Avent Express was specially designed to hold other Avent products like the Isis breast pump and big enough to accommodate six breast milk containers. The inner rack can also be transformed into a dishwasher basket for small items like breast pump parts.

The Avent Express Electric Steam Sterilizer Starter Set also includes newborn soothers, a bottle brush, tongs and measuring cup – making it a complete and ultra useful gift.

The Avent range also features other products for par' and babies' every need, ıding training cups and fee sets, breast pumps and mers. And because it carries Avent name, gift-givers arsured that they are giving tloved ones only the highesıality baby care products.

Avent is available ae infant section of leadin;partment Stores, specialtores and Hypermarkets nawide. To know more about A', visit www.avent.com.



over the OTC counter
20 CAPSULES
ORLISTAT
LESOFAT
120 mg CAPSULE
ANTI-OBESITY

Less fat this Christmas

CAN YOU ENJOY MOUTH-WATERING hamon this holiday season not worrying about the fats you'll be taking in? Can you indulge yourself with all those tempting holiday treats that are passed around the table? You have two choices: enjoy the holiday treats and regret it, or abstain and crave to death.

Fortunately, there is another option-enjoy the holiday treats with no regrets!

The Innogen Pharma Group recently released an innovative version of Orlistat, calling it Lesofat. It carries a tagline "Less Fat with Lesofat". The product reduces body fat by decreasing the amount of fat absorbed and increasing the amount of fat passed through the body.

"Lesofat uses pellets or spheroids inside a capsule that become more dispersible upon intake," Innogen Patient Care director Dr. Helen Florentino explains. "Innogen, being the pioneers of Pelletech in the Philippines, have used the technology platform to ensure uniform distribution of the drug in the food eaten, causing more fat to be blocked. It is a definite advantage compared with other brands of Orlistat."

"InnoGen Pharma Group ensures that there is added value in every product that they do. With Lesofat, technology is added but is not passed on to the cost," as Dr. Florentino explains.

"Lesofat blocks fat from getting absorbed into the body by inhibiting an enzyme called pancreatic lipase," Florentino adds. "In combination with a healthy low-fat diet and exercise, it can help in the treatment of obesity because it helps individuals lose and maintain their body weight."

"The medication is not meant to replace but to complement a healthy lifestyle that includes exercise and a healthy diet," Florentino stresses.

Orlistat (Lesofat) is recommended for individuals with a Body Mass Index of 27.5. Filipinos with a BMI of 27.5 are at high risk of developing health problems.

Overweight and obesity are defined as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health. Body mass index-or BMI-is a simple index of weight-for-height that is commonly used in classifying overweight and obesity. WHO defines "overweight" as a BMI equal to or more than 25, and "obesity" as a BMI equal to or more than 30.

Lesofat must be consumed right before or within an hour of consuming a meal. "After the drug is taken, approximately 30 percent of the unabsorbed fat passes through the intestines and expelled from the body. Only fat is blocked," Florentino explains.

Protein and carbohydrates and most vitamins and minerals, with the exception of fat-soluble vitamins, are absorbed.

Positive side effects include lowering blood pressure, improvements in LDL-C (bad cholesterol) and slight improvements of cholesterol levels altogether. This could be attributed to greater increase in weight loss.

If the holiday season means your healthy eating habits and resolve get thrown out the window, take heart. With Lesofat, it's still possible to indulge in Christmas goodies without piling on the pounds.

LOOK UP TO URBAN ATHLETIC CULTURE
GBX Oberon pushes the urban athletic culture further levels up with its new, edgy shoe lines. The GBX new styles are made of contemporary materials such as waxy suede and tank canvas that come in unconventional designs and color combinations-youthful, even bordering on non-conformity!

MOCHA CHRISTMAS BLENDS
Want to enjoy your Christmas the Mocha Blends way? Enjoy the various flavors of Mocha Blends, hot or cold, this Christmas season just the way you like it. You can while away the time and enjoy the cold weather while sipping a hot cup of Mocha Blends or be on the go with your favorite drink in its cold version. Our Mocha Butterscotch Drinks in Dark, White or Caramel blended drinks are available in hot cups for that long afternoons spent catching up with friends during the Christmas rush. But if you're looking for a way to cool down after your weekly marathon Christmas shopping, then cold drinks are the way to go to pep up your Christmas spirits. Christmas is always the time for get-togethers and long chitchats, so why not head on to Mocha Blends and make your time really worthwhile?

Ziller RealSound: Rockin the videoke industry

HANDS DOWN, ZILLER REALSound Portable Box Videoke (TKR 300) is the hottest videoke product to enter the market. One of RealSound's unprecedented features is its specially modified MP3 for videoke use called "Real Sound". Now you can sing with: back-up singers, second voice, orchestra accompaniment, and real string instruments. And yes, it also does away with that all too familiar Midi sound-delivering better sound quality for your listening pleasure.

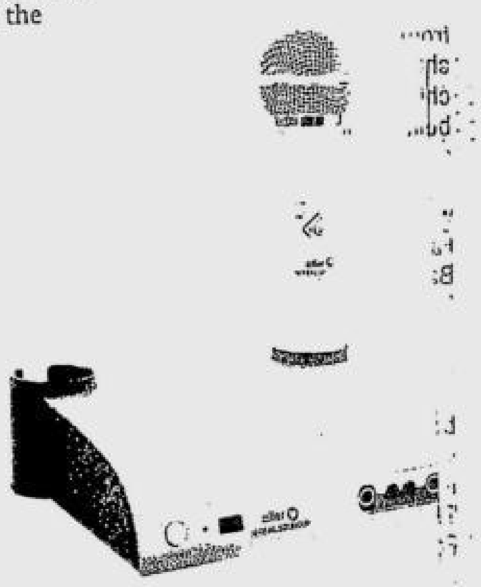
Its music library contains 1,550 built-in songs (1,273 English and 277 OPM songs). Here you'll find songs popularized by artists like PussyCatDolls, Sugababes, Kelly Clarkson, Black Eyed Peas, Fantasia, Puff Daddy, Paris Hilton, Ashlee and Jessica Simpson, Matt Monroe, Tony Bennett, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Bamboo, M.Y.M.P, True Faith, Sampaguita, Itchy Worms, Lemons & Oranges, Eraserheads, Parokya ni Edgar, Introvoys, Apo Hiking Society, VST & Company, Rivermaya, Nina, Lea Salonga, Odette Quesada, Gary Valenciano, Side A, Aegis, South Border, Regine Velasquez, Basil Valdez, Noel Cabangon, Put3ska, Kitchie Nadal, Ogie Alcasid, 6Cycle Mind, Freestyle, and a host of others.

Moreover, you can now personalize your background images to suit any occasion, like anniversaries, weddings, birthdays or graduations, etc. Its easy-to-change picture background allows users to upload up to 100 of their favorite pictures/images through its USB port.

Enjoy hassle-free song search with the microphone's alpha-numeric key pad. Just key in the info and you'll be able find your songs, by artist, by song title, by lyrics, and by song number, without the use of a songbook.

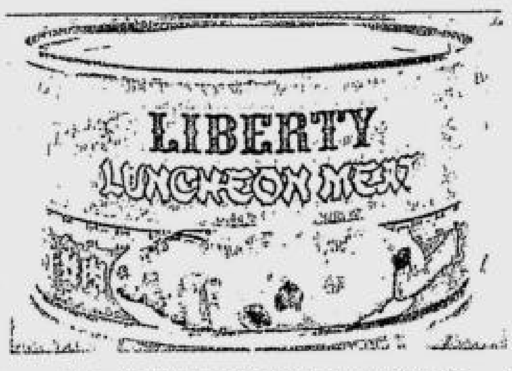
Ziller RealSound makes it the perfect gift to give this season. And what better time to buy a unit than now! Take advantage of its "Grand November Birit Promo", here you get to save as much as P2,800. Take your pick of any of the following promo packs: T300 + Duet Mic + OPM songck + Memory Pack; TKR 300 +et Mic + OPM song pack, TKR 30 OPM song pack + Memory Pacust to name a few of its package rings.

Ziller RealSound is nufactured by TJ Media Co LtdKorea and exclusively distributec RealSound Corp. For more infation, call 336-0198, 366-9410 og on to www.realsoundvideoken.



THE HOT LIGHT IS ON IN TRINOMA
Krispy Kreme, America's most-loved doughnut, opens its 4th store at the Trinoma theater level, Trinoma Mall in North Edsa, Quezon City, with (from left) Carlo Fajardo, senior marketing manager, Krispy Kreme Philippines; Ed Sta. Ana, commissary manager, Krispy Kreme Philippines; Grace Lanada, restaurant general manager, Krispy Kreme Greenhills; Ronnie Esteban, general manager, KK Trinoma. Enjoy more of Krispy Kre's world-famous original glazed, assorted doughnu varieties, and Hot Signature Coffee at other Kri Kreme branches located at Bonifacio High StreeM Megamall, the first doughnut drive-through at t Greenhills Shopping Center, and opening soon, t Trinoma lobby factory store.

Celebrating the Liberty Luncheon Meat excitement!



EVERY TIME WE DO OUR GROCERY shopping and we pass by the canned or processed meat section, for sure we can't miss out on sausages, corned beef and luncheon meat. The latter could probably count as one of the top favorites. Thanks to the various advertising efforts exorbitantly implemented by major players in the industry. However, this may not be the sole determining factor if the product can sustain its market following. We may have to check on the taste, price, quality versatility -overall appeal of the product. And speaking of versatility, this is probably where our "discriminating choice" gets to apply. Specially for us Filipinos, our passion for the extraordinary, exciting, adventurous food tripping, cooking and tasting is never compromised. Re-invention is probably a key element. Either we do food preparation for small or big occasions, a simple recipe for family or friends, or even just having a thing for it, there is always a thrill in doing extraordinary out of the ordinary; be it fresh or canned, raw or frozen.

Liberty Luncheon Meat, offers an affordable yet quality choice for meat lovers. Aimed at giving the public a new, better choice when it comes to canned meat, specifically luncheon meats. It is wanting to offer the public an eating experience that may not always be equated to being "expensive". With their entry in the luncheon meat category, there are no socio-economic barriers to matter.

Enjoying Liberty luncheon meat goes from breakfast to lunch, merienda, dinner and midnight snack. Either cooked or straight from the can, Liberty luncheon has that distinct taste, perfectly blending with rice or roll, or with your favorite side dishes and juices. Or have it have chopped into bits and see how your fried rice, soup, pizza, spaghetti or any luncheon-meat ala combo turns into a mega recipe! Thinking of take-outs? Too busy to do lengthy food preparations? Get on the Liberty-Luncheon- Meat-to-go! For sure you'd still want it as fresh tasting as possible.

Freshness of the product is a must, especially when these are canned products. Liberty Luncheon meat has longer shelf-life, so there is less of a problem on stacking up in your food cabinets. Tmanufacturing process for everLiberty canned product undergoes r strict testing and control.

The Liberty luncheon meexcitement perks up with the Christmseason that's just around the corner! at can even be nicer than having yoNoche Buena complete with Liberty cheon Meat along with the choiceishes? Share the excitement with all y loved ones! It's like having more tha celebration as you get to do ms-and-matches with your Liberty cheon Meat. And yes! You can fill your Christmas baskets with all tLiberty variants and give them as yospecial Christmas gift!

Liberty Luncheon is made aable at all Robinson's supermarkets, regold Chain Stores, Makro, Super Landmark, Cash and Carry, Isetannimart and all leading supermarketation-wide.

How to prepare for a private Christmas party

THIS CHRISTMAS, SPENDING THE EVENING WITH friends is a great way to deepen friendships. Cooking for them is a priceless gesture that they will all appreciate. Spread the holiday warmth and Christmas cheer by preparing a scrumptious and charming dinner party, and you show you value them by the effort and care you put in. But, don't let the menu planning and house cleaning intimidate you. With some tips and basic planning from celebrity chef Tristan Encarnacion, Sunnex guarantees that you and your guests will have a very merry Christmas indeed!

Plan the number of guests. A small dinner party for four is the best way to start. You can increase the number once you master the flair of being hostess / chef extraordinaire.

Set a date that's convenient for you and your guests. Make sure your guests will have time to mark the date on their calendar. Call them a week before to confirm, and text to remind them three days in advance. Give enough time to prepare your menu and your cleaning.

Plan the menu and the theme. Your dishes should always make sense, and compliment one another. In the mood for Italian? How about a traditional Pinoy Christmas fare? Research is still best. Or ask your friends what they would like to have instead. Remember, drinks and dessert should also match the menu.

Set the ambiance. So you have your menu and your theme. It's best to start thinking about what kind of ambiance to have during your dinner. Traditional cozy or whimsical? Holiday fairyland or elegance? Decorate as cost-effectively as possible, and don't buy things that you can't use again.

Prepare a battle plan. Plan your shopping, cleaning, and cooking schedule ahead of time. Shop for all you need in one weekend and be sure to have a list of things to purchase; from ingredients, to table napkins, to house cleaning materials.

Relax and enjoy. Remember, this is a night of fun and love. There's no point in having a party if you or your guests cannot enjoy each other's company. Just sit back and bask in the wonderful conversations and the greatest friendships.

Preparation is key. But being armed with the right equipment will make sure that you get your cooking done on time, and most importantly, come out tasting as you have envisioned. Sunnex provides the quality cookware you need to make sure that these holiday dinners, remain a tradition.

Made of only high-grade stainless steel, the Tristan Chef's Classics by Sunnex absorbs and distributes the stoves' heat evenly with its aluminum capsulated bottom, making cooking time faster. Throwing a dinner party need not be long afternoons spent in the kitchens. With Sunnex, cooking for friends and family during the holidays is a great way to show them that you love them. It's sharing your life with them in the best possible way, and spreading the Christmas cheer. Merry Christmas from Sunnex!

GIVE THE GIFT OF GREAT HAIR FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is just around the corner. Still thinking of the perfect gift to give your daughter, sister, and best friend? No need to search endlessly in the mall going in circles until your feet turn blue from all the walking. Finding the right gift for the loved ones need not be a painful experience. Here's a great idea: Why not gift her with great hair all year long? Goody Philippines Inc, the number one premium hair accessory in the country has put together special gift packs that even moms can really appreciate and use. The Christmas Goody Gift Set contains everything a girl needs from the high-quality hair brushes to claw clips and foam sprayers. It's the perfect gift. It's practical too. Not only does it keep hair in place all day long, it won't strain the budgets as well. Each gift set is worth only P450. Why not give the great women in your life gifts that she can use everyday? She'll love the brushes and the foam rollers, and will swoon with delight over the cute Ponytailer flower. The Christmas Goody Gift Set is a great way to show her that you care for her well-being, and that great hair can be had all year round. She'll squeal with delight as soon as she sees her Stayput Ponytailer that comes in all gift sets. It's the Christmas gift she'll always remember and have in her bag. These special goodies are available from November to January only, in selected Robinsons Department Stores in Makati, Lipa, Festival, Metro East, Galleria, Imus, Ermita and Cagayan de Oro.

GE's annual warehouse sale times two!

THE MUCH AWAITED GE ANNUAL CLASS B warehouse sale is now even better, with currently 2 locations to gratify those holiday shopping needs. Avail of discounts of up to 50 percent off among the on hand display units. Offered are Class B units, which are 100 percent working but were either used as display units, with minor scratches or simply units without boxes. 1st stop is the GE Warehouse Sale at the MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio. Enjoy a wide selection of all-GE refrigerators from single doors, 2-door direct cool refs to stainless steel refs and even side by side refrigerators. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Next shopping destination is at GE Appliances' Main office at 103 Mercedes Avenue, Barangay San Miguel, Pasig City, open from Mon.-Sat. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Have the privilege of being one of the first to pick from a variety of refrigerators, upright and chest freezers, air conditioners, washing machines, water dispensers, microwave ovens, built-in hobs, built-in ovens, rangehoods, and gas/electric ranges. To make it more exciting, the sale is also joined by other participating world-class brands like Ariston by Indesit, Fabriano, Daewoo, Kenwood, Remington, Babyliss, Alcatel, Uniden, Brother, Canon, Honeywell and Vicks which offers cordless and corded phones, air circulators, personal/health care products, and the list goes on. So drop by and get the best deals out of your bonuses this season and usher the coming year with the latest home appliances at amazing prices from your most trusted brand GE. The sale will run until December 31, 2008. For more information, call GE Appliances' showroom at MC Home Depot Fort Bonifacio (815-8875).

Delicious delights from Acer

IF YOU WANT TO ENJOY SOMETHING delectable and delightful this December, trust Acer to bring a wonderful sensation that will truly astound your senses.

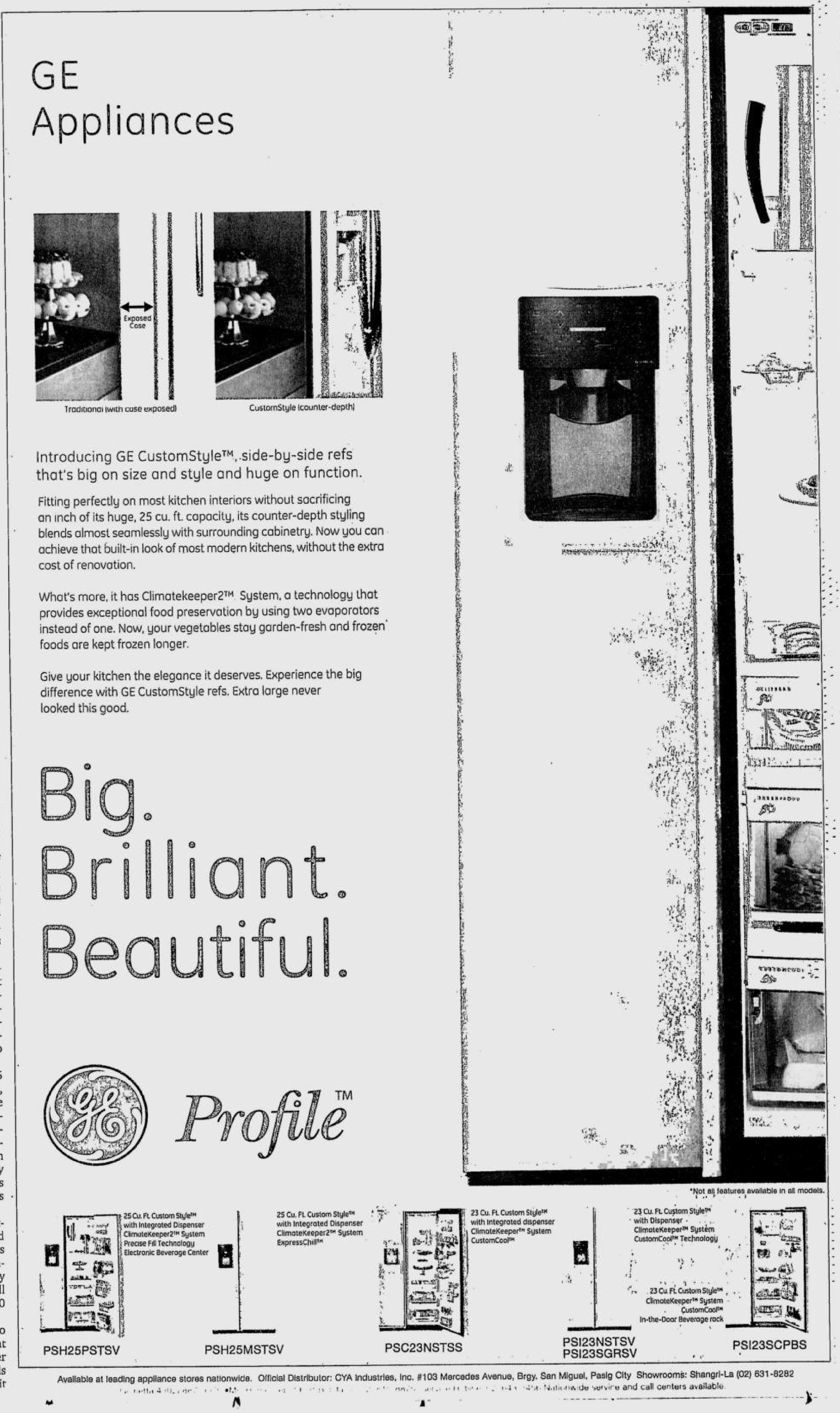
For this year's Yuletide season, be one of the most enviable corporate recipients of a rare treat courtesy of Acer, one of the world's top computer manufacturers, as they bring smiles and joy to their customers' hearts and minds, via the Acer Holiday Treat promo for corporate purchasers of Acer's commercial products.

Get to relish a sumptuous feast of goodies with a Marks and Spencer Christmas gift basket by simply buying five Acer commercial products, whether commercial notebooks, desktops, projectors or a combination of three products at any Acer Elite Partner or corporate reseller starting Oct. 15 up to Dec. 15 only.

All buyers have to do is to buy a total of 5 Acer commercial units like the PC desktop, notebook, projector or a combination of the three from any Acer Elite Partner like Advance Solutions Inc, Columbia Technologies Inc, Creative Technologies Inc or Zenshin Systems Corp and enjoy their very own Christmas Gift basket of two variants by Marks and Spencer. End-user purchases made via Acer's other corporate resellers are also qualified for the promo.

To get their Marks and Spencer Christmas gift basket, corporate end-users need to simply submit the Purchase Order as proof of purchase, corporate resellers invoice or original receipt, plus a copy of any valid ID of the representative who will claim the gift basket, and fax to 815-4940 care of Acer Marketing Department.

To claim the special gift basket, just go to the Acer (Phil) Inc head office located at Unit 3401 PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. corner Rufino St., Makati City. For more details about the Acer Holiday Treat promo, visit www.acer.com.ph



GE
Appliances

Traditional (with case exposed)
CustomStyle (counter-depth)

Introducing GE CustomStyle™, side-by-side refs that's big on size and style and huge on function.

Fitting perfectly on most kitchen interiors without sacrificing an inch of its huge, 25 cu. ft. capacity, its counter-depth styling blends almost seamlessly with surrounding cabinetry. Now you can achieve that built-in look of most modern kitchens, without the extra cost of renovation.

What's more, it has Climatekeeper2™ System, a technology that provides exceptional food preservation by using two evaporators instead of one. Now, your vegetables stay garden-fresh and frozen foods are kept frozen longer.

Give your kitchen the elegance it deserves. Experience the big difference with GE CustomStyle refs. Extra large never looked this good.

Big.
Brilliant.
Beautiful.

GE Profile™

*Not all features available in all models.

25 Cu. Ft. Custom Style™
with Integrated Dispenser
ClimateKeeper2™ System
Precise Fill Technology
Electronic Beverage Center
PSH25PSTSV

25 Cu. Ft. Custom Style™
with Integrated Dispenser
ClimateKeeper2™ System
ExpressChill™
PSH25MSTSV

23 Cu. Ft. Custom Style™
with Integrated dispenser
ClimateKeeper™ System
CustomCool™
PSC23NSTSS

23 Cu. Ft. Custom Style™
with Dispenser
ClimateKeeper™ System
CustomCool™ Technology
PSI23NSTSV
PSI23SGRSV

23 Cu. Ft. Custom Style™
ClimateKeeper™ System
CustomCool™
In-the-Door Beverage rack
PSI23SCPBS

Available at leading appliance stores nationwide. Official Distributor: CYA Industries, Inc. #103 Mercedes Avenue, Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City Showrooms: Shangri-La (02) 631-8282
[illegible] Nationwide service and call centers available

all you want to Give
all you want to Get
We've got it all for you!
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE

Available at the ladies' wear, shoes, bags, and accessories departments

MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO
BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA • BACOLOD • TAYTAY

Thursday, November 22, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 347 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS

Oil hits $99/barrel on supply worries; dollar plumbs new low **BUSINESS** / B1

US has 'secret bases' in RP, says Thai think tank **NEWS** / A2

Thanksgiving dinner a la Pinoy **LIFESTYLE** / C2

GMA rushes home after hitting Burma

By Norman Bordadora

SINGAPORE (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday cut short her scheduled five-day stay here after creating a stir as the only one among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders to warn of the nonratification of Asean's historic charter if Burma (Myanmar) failed to free prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I return to the Philippines one day

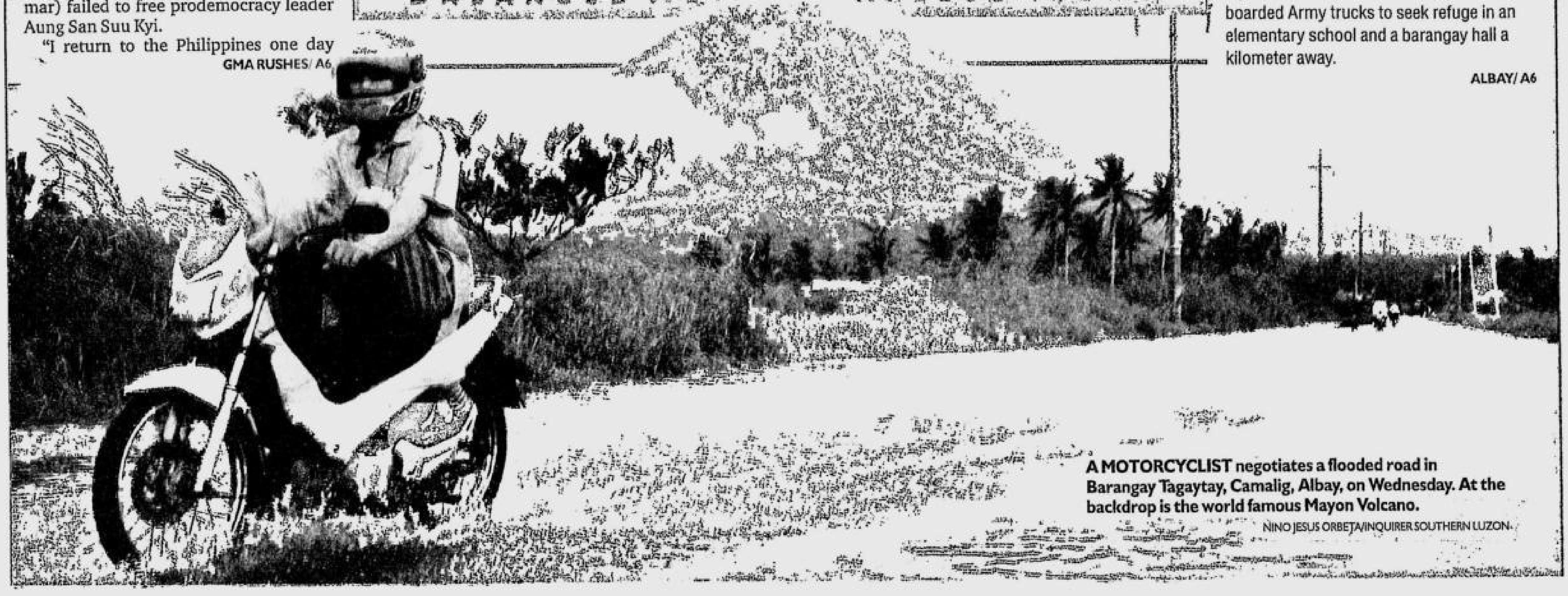
GMA RUSHES/ A6

Albay folk on storm path ordered to flee homes

By Inquirer Southern Luzon and Jerome Aning

LUGGING ALONG KITCHENWARE AND huge plastic bags with pillows, blankets and clothes, people from at least three villages of Camalig town in Albay yesterday boarded Army trucks to seek refuge in an elementary school and a barangay hall a kilometer away.

ALBAY/ A6



A MOTORCYCLIST negotiates a flooded road in Barangay Tagaytay, Camalig, Albay, on Wednesday. At the backdrop is the world famous Mayon Volcano. NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Magnate tied to cash gifts

But port operator denies claims by Lacson

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A JOINT SENATE INQUIRY IS LOOKING AT A reported P500-million cash disbursement by the Department of Budget Management intended for businessman Reghis M. Romero as the possible source of the cash gifts distributed to governors in Malacañang last month.

But senators came out of the hearing with more questions than answers on the cash gifts, conceding that the funds could have come from other banks aside from Bank of Commerce whose wrappers were found on the P500,000 received by Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, citing unnamed DBM informants, revealed that the handouts could have been part of the P500 million disbursed through the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB).

The amount was deposited in Romero's account supposedly at the Bank of Com-

PORT MAGNATE/ A8

Romero: Smokey Mountain builder, kidnap victim

REGHIS ROMERO II IS THE chair and founder of R-II Builders Inc., the construction company that signed a deal with the government in 1993 to build low-cost housing for residents of the Smokey Mountain dump in Manila.

In 2004, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, charging irregularities, asked the Supreme Court to declare the

ROMERO/ A8

FRESH OFF THE PLANE Flying in from San Francisco, John Gokongwei Jr., chair emeritus of JG Summit Holdings Inc., delivers the keynote speech at the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress in Subic. The congress, which gathers advertising, marketing and media practitioners, opened yesterday with 3,300 delegates in attendance at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center. EUGENE ARANETA

Palace seeks resumption of WB road loans to RP

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG HAS BEEN ASsured by the World Bank representative that she would push for the resumption of deliberations on the $232-million loan intended for Philippine road projects, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said yesterday.

According to Andaya, the assurance was made after the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the World Bank agreed to adopt Philippine laws governing procurement in implementing Phase 2 of the National Road Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP) as a "safeguard" against corruption.

PALACE/ A6

Rights body to shield Asean from foreign meddling

SINGAPORE—A HUMAN RIGHTS BODY to be set up by Southeast Asian nations should not intervene in domestic human rights issues such as the current crisis in Burma (Myanmar), but instead protect countries from foreign meddling, according to confidential recommendations by the region's diplomats.

The recommendations, which were made in a report seen by The Associated Press on Wednesday, confirmed that the human rights agency would be a toothless body with no power to rein in flagrant violators such as Burma.

The report was commissioned by the Asso-

RIGHTS/ A9

Dutch judge closes murder probe of Joma

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS—A DUTCH judge on Wednesday closed the murder investigation of exiled former Philippine communist leader Jose Maria Sison, citing lack of evidence against him.

Although the decision deals a heavy blow to the prosecution, national prosecutor's office spokesperson Wim de Bruin said that the file on Sison was not yet closed and that it may still attempt to indict him in the next two months.

Sison, 68, was arrested in August and

DUTCH JUDGE/ A8

PNP: Ex-mayor admits role in plot to kill Akbar

MEMBERS of the Manila bomb squad inspect an explosive device after defusing it at the Quirino Grandstand, Luneta, Manila. RAFFY LERMA

By Alcuin Papa

A FORMER MAYOR HAS CONFESSED PARticipation in a plot to assassinate Rep. Wahab Akbar at the Sulô Hotel, but police are still trying to determine if he was directly involved in the Nov. 13 bombing at the Batasan complex that killed the Basilan congressman.

Director Geary Barias of the National Capital Region Police Office said former Mayor Hajarun Jamiri of Tuburan, Basilan, had told investigators he helped plan a bomb attack to kill Akbar on Oct. 23 at the hotel in Quezon City.

"Akbar did not show up at the hotel, so the plan of assassinating him did not materialize," Barias said.

Jamiri, who helped the military negotiate the release of kidnapped Italian priest Giancarlo Bossi in June, is a known enemy of Akbar, a former member of Abu Sayyaf who later helped in the US-backed antiterror campaign against the group.

A motorcycle that was to be used in the Sulô Hotel plot was taken by Jamiri near Pepe's Inn in San Andres and the bomb it was loaded with was taken to a house on Avella Street near Leveriza in Malate, said Supt. Joaquin Alva of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Akbar, 47, and three others were killed in the Batasan bombing, whose mastermind remained unknown. Twelve others were wounded, including two congressmen.

PNP: EX-MAYOR/ A8

It pays to count, says study on pedometer

MAG-EXERCISE TUWING UMAGA, MAG-DIARY TUWING GABI!

CHICAGO—PEOPLE who use a pedometer to measure how far they walk lose more weight, exercise more and have lower blood pressure than those who do not, according to US researchers.

It was not clear from the study, the first to review most previously pub-

IT PAYS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Kalayaan Group of Islands will experience stormy weather. Palawan will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters will be moderate to rough. Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Bicol and Eastern Visayas which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/21/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

HA?! PAANO NAKA-LUSOT 'YAN?

Website: www.inquirer.net/nation

EZ2
13 16

FOUR DIGIT
6 5 9 9
(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
1 5 7 | 9 1 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 12 14 28 38 43
₱15,477,019.20

US has 'secret bases' in RP

Think tank tags Mactan, Clark, Subic, GenSan as 'lily pads'

THE UNITED STATES IS MAINTAINING "SECRET bases" in the Philippines, and the primary target of this military presence is China, not the Abu Sayyaf extremist group, according to a special report by a Bangkok-based international think tank.

The bases are listed in the US Overseas Basing Commission as "cooperative security locations" (CSLs), a new category of offshore US military bases, said the report launched in Manila yesterday by the Focus on the Global South, a policy research organization based at the Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, with country offices in the Philippines and India.

The report, titled "At the Door of All the East: The Philippines in United States Military Strategy," said the US Overseas Basing Commission, a body created by the US Congress to review the ongoing realignment of US military presence around the world, lists the Philippines as among the countries where the US has been developing CSLs.

Mactan, Subic, Clark

Though the government has neither acknowledged nor identified the locations of these bases in the Philippines, the report suggested that one such CSL is in Mactan.

Other possible leads offered for those with the capacity to probe the issue further include the Subic Bay and Clark free ports and the General Santos airport.

The report's launch date was timed to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the withdrawal of US troops from their bases in the Philippines on Nov. 24, 1992.

It noted that the Philippine government has neither announced its decision to allow the opening of these CSLs nor has it revealed where these bases are located.

According to the report, the Pentagon categorizes CSLs as US military installations that are nominally owned by host governments but are to be provided for the United States' use when needed. They would most likely be run and maintained by host-nation personnel or even private contractors. They are useful for prepositioning logistics support or as venues for joint operations with host militaries.

'Lily pads'

CSLs are also called "lily pads" intended to allow the US to hop from their larger bases to their destinations rapidly when necessary, said the report, the result of five years of research, interviews and monitoring.

With their low profile, they are envisioned not to attract the kind of attention that has fueled domestic opposition to US military presence in many places around the world, it said.

The report also documented how and why the US has been re-establishing its presence in the Philippines.

Eschewing the usual explanation that US troops are in the Philippines to help hunt down terrorists, the report instead locates US military actions within the larger context of the US global objectives and strategy.

Citing official US documents and examining US actions over the past years, the report identified China as the real target of the US attempts to gain access to the Philippines.

"The current US military strategy is to prevent the rise of any rivals to its sole superpower status. China has been explicitly and officially identified by the US as this potential rival and has since moved to encircle it with US military presence in the various countries surrounding it," the report said.

Long-term threat

While terrorists may be a concern to US security, China is seen as posing the greater long-term threat that drives US military strategy and actions.

"Explaining US military presence in the Philippines as driven by the Abu Sayyaf is inadequate and misleading," the report said.

It cited a series of pronouncements by US President George Bush and other top officials citing China as a "threat" to the US move to redeploy more of its troops from Europe to Asia to support its contention.

It said the US construction of military bases in Central Asia, its efforts to deepen its military alliances with Japan, Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, and more recently, India, were all done with China in mind.

In the Philippines, the report cited these forms of US military presence as being driven by US to deter China's challenging US military—the increasing number of joint military exercises; the indefinite stationing of a unit of US Special Forces in the southern Philippines; the securing of an access agreement assuring logistics and other services to the US military; and the building of various kinds of infrastructure facilitating US military mobility. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Save MARILOU !
-Migrante Int'l-
SAVE
MARILOU RANARIO

RANARIO: Pleading for daughter's life

JOAN BONDOC

Pa pleads for doomed RP maid

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Germelina Lacorte
Inquirer Mindanao

THE FATHER OF MARILOU RANARIO, AN overseas domestic on death row in Kuwait for killing her employer, yesterday pleaded with President Macapagal-Arroyo for more help to save his daughter from execution with the final verdict only five days away.

"I am appealing to the President, as a parent, to do everything to bring back Marilou by Christmas," Rosario Ranario, 64, a farmer from Surigao del Sur, told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

He said Marilou's children, 13-year-old Raffy John and 11-year-old Roselle, are still hoping that they would still see their mother alive.

Marilou, 35, went to work in Kuwait in 2003. She was found guilty of stabbing to death her employer Najat Mahmoud Faraj Mubarak on Jan. 11, 2005. She claimed she suffered months of unfair labor practices, maltreatment and abuse. Lawyers said she showed signs of mental instability.

If the conviction is upheld, Marilou will be hanged.

Final verdict

Nong Saryo, as her father is known in hometown Tubod, said he had come all the way from Surigao del Sur to find out the status of his daughter's appeal of the death sentence before the Kuwaiti supreme court.

When he went to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Nov. 13, he was informed that the handing down of the final verdict had been moved from Dec. 27 to Nov. 27.

"The DFA did not give me exact details on Marilou's case. The personnel there did not even explain why the scheduled final verdict was moved," Rosario pointed out, lamenting that he has not been updated on his daughter's plight.

He also made the plea to Vice President Noli de Castro, DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo, and Ambassador Ricardo Endaya to help save Marilou.

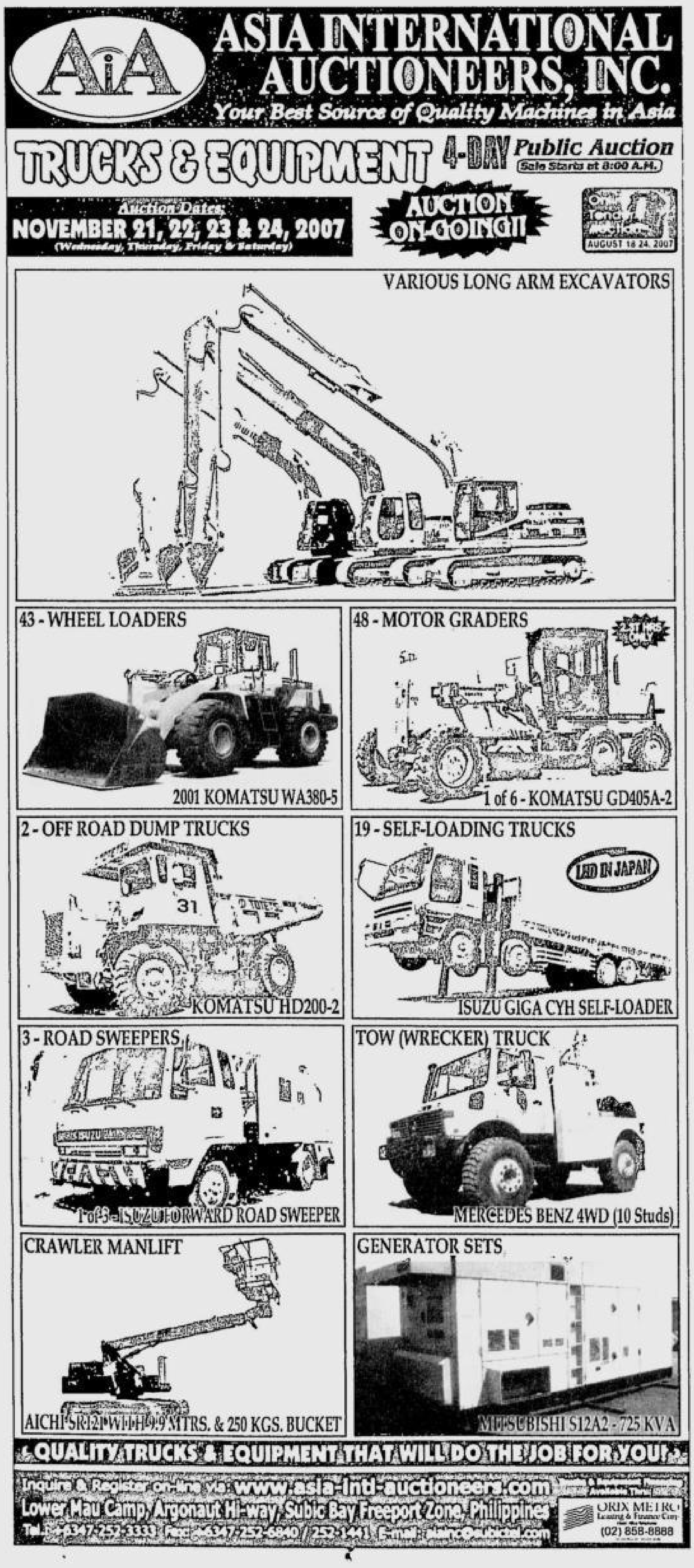
The Vice President, he said, had earlier been quoted as saying there was a big chance Marilou could be released because relatives of the victim were ready to accept "blood money" and issue their "forgiveness."

Marilou, the fourth child in a brood of 10, went to Kuwait right after she finished her education degree at the Northeastern Mindanao Colleges (Nemco).

Raffy John said he hopes President Arroyo and Vice President De Castro will hear their call and help his mother.

Nong Saryo said he visited Marilou in a Kuwait jail last year, through the help of former Governor Robert Ace Barbers. She appeared to be not her usual self.

"She seemed aloof and out of her mind," he said. Instead of hugging him, she just smiled and seemed so "distant" according to Nong Saryo. *With a report by Jerome Aning*


AiA ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT 4-DAY Public Auction
(Sale Starts at 8:00 A.M.)
Auction Dates:
NOVEMBER 21, 22, 23 & 24, 2007
(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)
AUCTION ON-GOING!!
AUGUST 18 24, 2007
VARIOUS LONG ARM EXCAVATORS
43 - WHEEL LOADERS
2001 KOMATSU WA380-5
48 - MOTOR GRADERS
1 of 6 - KOMATSU GD405A-2
2 - OFF ROAD DUMP TRUCKS
KOMATSU HD200-2
19 - SELF-LOADING TRUCKS
LHD IN JAPAN
ISUZU GIGA CYH SELF-LOADER
3 - ROAD SWEEPERS
1 of 3 - ISUZU FORWARD ROAD SWEEPER
TOW (WRECKER) TRUCK
MERCEDES BENZ 4WD (10 Studs)
CRAWLER MANLIFT
AICHI SR12 WITH 9.9 MTRS. & 250 KGS. BUCKET
GENERATOR SETS
MITSUBISHI S12A2 - 725 KVA
QUALITY TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT THAT WILL DO THE JOB FOR YOU!
Inquire & Register on-line via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel.: (+6347) 252-3333 Fax: (+6347) 252-6840 / 252-1441 E-mail: [illegible]
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp
(02) 858-8888

WHAT'S INSIDE

THUMBS up for Rene Saguisag /A3
LOPEZ GROUP wins PNOC-EDC bidding /A4
WHY DON'T you just Google? Atong told /A5
ERAP for President again? /A4

Smuggled onions from China seized

By Margaux C. Ortiz

CLOSE TO P40 MILLION worth of onions smuggled from China were recently seized by the Bureau of Customs at the Port of Manila.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales yesterday said the 29 containers of smuggled onions had not been covered by any import permit from the Department of Agriculture.

He said that the onions were consigned to Oriental Fresh Connection, Philippine Container Lines, Marvis Trading/JCS International Freight Services Inc., and Alpine Giga Enterprises.

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) Director for Intelligence Dino Tuason explained that the Agriculture department has not issued any import permit for onions since February of this year.

"We have a tightened watch on onion smuggling," Morales said, pointing out that the local producers of onions suffer when imported and cheaper products flood the market.

Thumbs up for Rene Saguisag

By DJ Yap

LAWYER RENE SAGUISAG HAS SHOWN more signs he is on his way to recovery, looking his most animated in days and smiling more often, his doctors said yesterday.

Days after three medical procedures were performed on him following the Nov. 8 road accident that killed his wife Dulce, the former senator's condition has greatly improved, said Dr. Eric Nubla, who visited Saguisag in the intensive care unit of the hospital.

"He's much better today. He's very animated—the most animated I have seen him so far," said Nubla, the chief of the Makati Medical Center's patient relations office.

"When I asked him how he was, he gave me the thumbs-up sign," the doctor told reporters in the hospital lobby.

On Monday, three medical procedures were performed on Saguisag, including a tracheostomy, which brought him back on respirator support after he experienced difficulty breathing on his own.

SAGUISAG

The other procedures involved the replacement of the chest tube that drained fluids from his left lung and the insertion of a caval filter to remove the blood clots in his lower extremities.

Nubla said Saguisag, using hand signals, asked him when he could be moved to a regular room. "I just told him 'soon,'" he said. He told reporters he could not give a definite date.

He said the weaning process from the ventilator also started yesterday morning so that Saguisag could eventually be taken off respirator support.

"He tolerated it actually… He has complained less about pain" from his cracked ribs, Nubla said.

"His color was good, and he was smiling a lot this morning… He seemed very alive and very eager to get on with his life," he added.

Saguisag's driver, Felipe Calvario, on the other hand, started bedside physiotherapy also yesterday, the doctor said.

The doctor explained that the rehabilitation was to ensure that Calvario's body, particularly his muscles, would be in good condition once he regained full consciousness.

"It will be gradual. On the first day he will do basic exercises. It will be passive, or the physiotherapist will be doing it for him," Nubla said in an earlier interview.

Dr. Victor Alvarez, the neurosurgeon looking into Saguisag's and Calvario's cases, had said the driver "moves, and opens his eyes but he doesn't recognize people."

Grab on-the-go meals at Jollibee

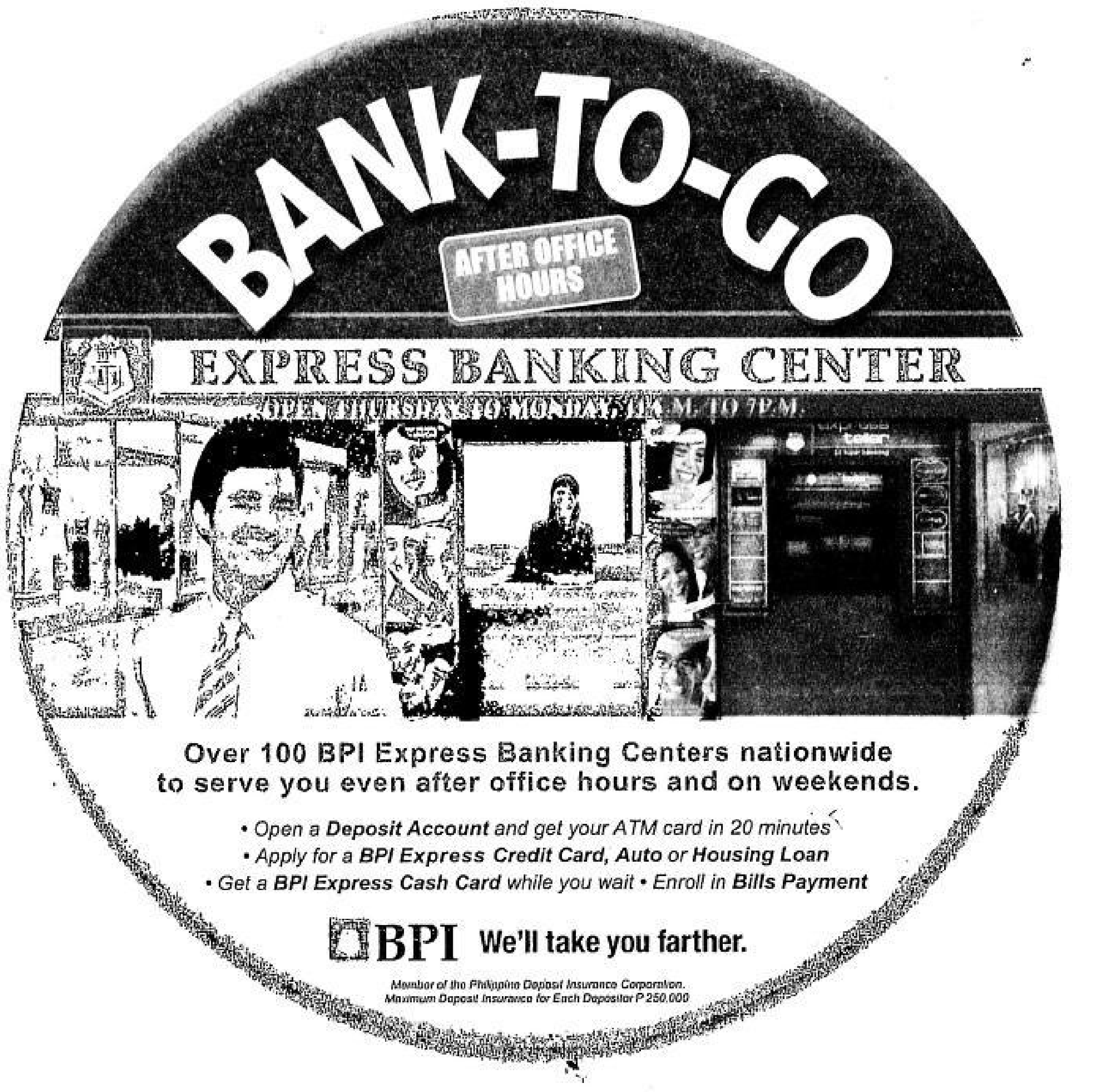
Ever craved food while on the road, been stuck in traffic past meal time, or always rushing to work and had no time to prepare your lunch? Now it's easier to enjoy the ride to or from the office as the leading fast-food chain makes satisfying food more easily available. Coming soon to many Jollibee stores near you are drive-through services that will make filling up on delicious treats faster and more convenient.

Already with the most drive-through windows in the country, Jollibee expands to serve even more busy motorists craving for premium burgers, fried chicken, cold drinks, desserts, and other Jollibee favorites. Get langhap-sarap food without leaving your car as Jollibee begins drive-through services in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, C5 Northbound, Taguig City, Viramall Sucat, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Olongapo, North Expressway, Balagtas Bulacan by the end of the year and in Intramuros, Manila, Batasan Hills, QC, Macapagal Blvd, Pasay City, Ortigas, Pasig Marcos Highway early 2008.

Now there's even less need to step out of your car if you want delicious, quality meals or snacks on-the-go, wherever you are. Just look for the billboards, banners, and other newly-erected signs to point you to the nearest Jollibee drive-through.

Jollibee
Drive Thru
Banawe • Shell Edsa • Sienna • Tomas Morato • E. Rodriguez • West Ave. • Don Antonio

Langhap-sarap food made more convenient with Jollibee Drive-Through

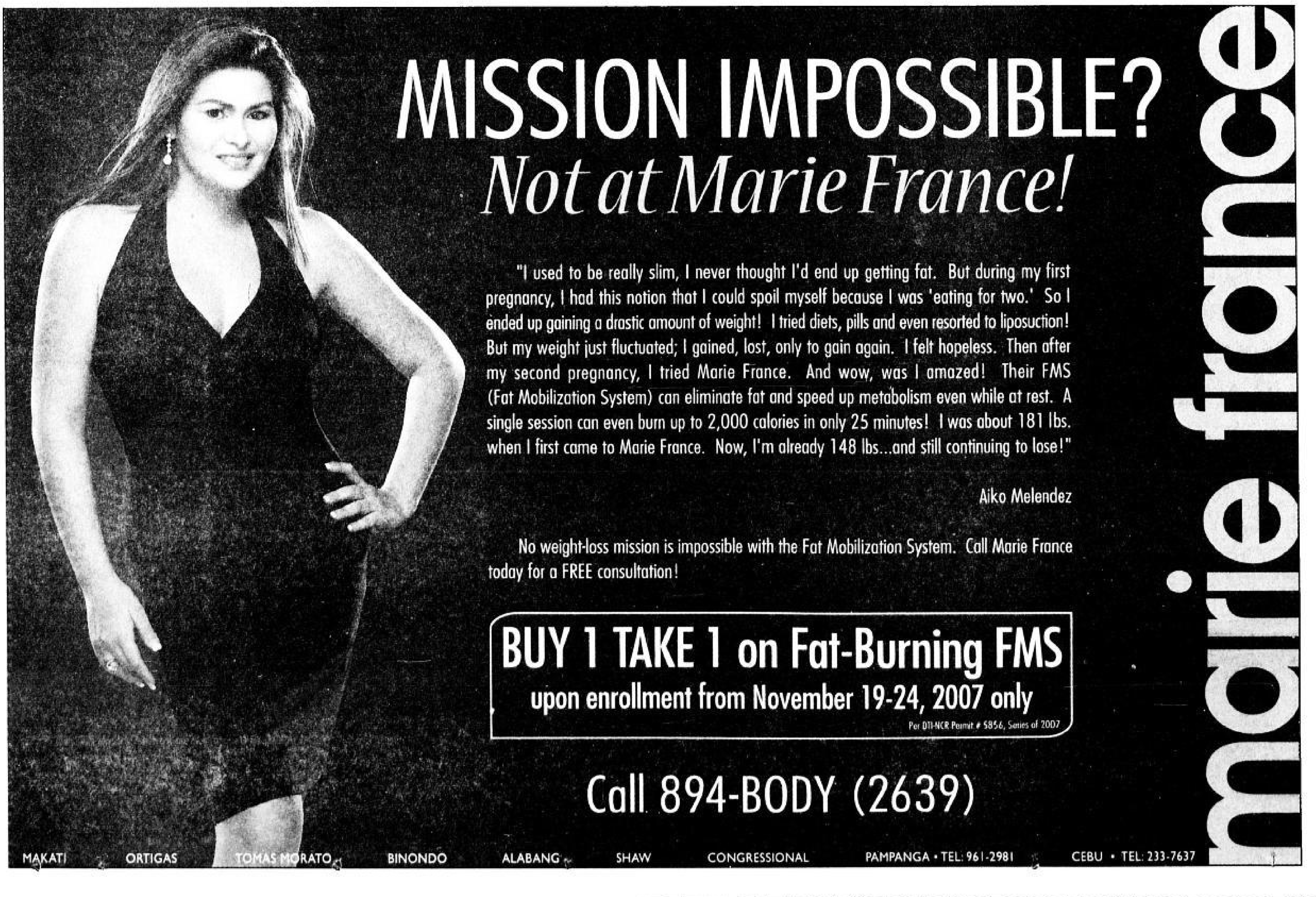


Over 100 BPI Express Banking Centers nationwide to serve you even after office hours and on weekends.

- Open a **Deposit Account** and get your ATM card in 20 minutes
- Apply for a **BPI Express Credit Card, Auto** or **Housing Loan**
- Get a **BPI Express Cash Card** while you wait • Enroll in **Bills Payment**

BPI We'll take you farther.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P 250,000



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?
Not at Marie France!

"I used to be really slim, I never thought I'd end up getting fat. But during my first pregnancy, I had this notion that I could spoil myself because I was 'eating for two.' So I ended up gaining a drastic amount of weight! I tried diets, pills and even resorted to liposuction! But my weight just fluctuated; I gained, lost, only to gain again. I felt hopeless. Then after my second pregnancy, I tried Marie France. And wow, was I amazed! Their FMS (Fat Mobilization System) can eliminate fat and speed up metabolism even while at rest. A single session can even burn up to 2,000 calories in only 25 minutes! I was about 181 lbs. when I first came to Marie France. Now, I'm already 148 lbs...and still continuing to lose!"

Aiko Melendez

No weight-loss mission is impossible with the Fat Mobilization System. Call Marie France today for a FREE consultation!

BUY 1 TAKE 1 on Fat-Burning FMS
upon enrollment from November 19-24, 2007 only
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 5856, Series of 2007

Call 894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

STUMPING in Navotas and Malabon, Estrada greets well-wishers from an open truck. AP

Erap for President again?

By Nancy Carvajal

OUSTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA, who was granted a presidential pardon soon after being convicted for plunder and sentenced to 40 years in prison, has hinted he might be open to running for President in 2010.

"I would be forced to run if the opposition will not unite, and if the people would really want me," he told reporters during a visit to Navotas and Malabon yesterday.

Estrada was interviewed during the birthday celebration of one of his most ardent supporters, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco.

Initially, he said he had no interest in running for public office anymore and would just support an opposition candidate.

He mentioned Senate President Manny Villar, senators Loren Legarda, Panfilo Lacson, Manuel Roxas and Francis Escudero as possible strong opposition contenders for the presidency in 2010.

Residents lined the streets, waiting to get a glimpse of Estrada who rode in a six-wheeler truck as he went around the streets of Navotas and Malabon.

People held up his presidential portrait and homemade placards, indicating that the former movie actor has not lost his popularity among the poor even after being ousted in the second people power uprising in 2001.

Estrada told the crowd his foray was his way of showing his gratitude for their unwavering support during his arrest and incarceration and not a preparation for a run for the presidency in 2010.

Last September, the Sandiganbayan found Estrada guilty of plunder for amassing P545 million in bribes from the illegal numbers game, jueteng, and for collecting P189 million in commissions from Belle Corp. shares after he ordered the two state-run pension funds to buy the shares of the company.

Scarcely a month later, however, President Macapagal-Arroyo extended an executive clemency to the convicted plunderer, citing among other reasons the fact that he had reached 70 years old.

Although the pardon restored Estrada's civil and political rights, the pardon document was prefaced by a statement that Estrada had promised he would no longer seek public office. The pardon also did not cover the court's order forfeiting Estrada's ill-gotten assets.

Estrada's wife, Loi Ejercito, who accompanied her husband to his sorties yesterday said that "as usual" she would support him in his plans if he should decide to run.

Estrada who has been making the rounds of his bailiwicks since the pardon insists that he was not prohibited from running for public office.

"I wanted to bring my case to the people and tell them that whatever mistake I have committed in my governance, corruption is not one of them," he said in a speech following the oath-taking of elected barangay officials.

Estrada reiterated that he was not guilty of plunder and would not be there facing his supporters if he had stolen public funds.

Wearing his trademark wristband with the presidential seal, he also revived the allegations of cheating in the 2004 presidential elections, which his friend Fernando Poe Jr. lost to Ms Arroyo.

He said Poe suffered the same fate as he and Sen. Loren Legarda.

"Sen. Loren should be the president now when FPJ died after they were cheated, " he told the crowd in Filipino.

APOLOGY

Engine Zone Enterprises hereby apologize to FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD. of Japan and SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC. for selling multi-purpose engines, pumps and/or generators which turned out to be unauthorized copies of the genuine ROBIN multi-purpose engines, pumps and generators. We acknowledge that our acts may be in violation of the Intellectual Property Code (R.A. 8293).

We acknowledge the ownership of FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD. of the trademark ROBIN and will continue to respect the intellectual property right of FUJI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD. of Japan and the industrial rights of SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC.

Engine Zone Enterprises
639-B Evangelista Street, Quiapo, Manila

Lopez group wins PNOC-EDC bidding

Abigail L. Ho

RED VULCAN HOLDINGS CORP., A CONSORTIUM led by the Lopezes' First Gen Corp., has won the bidding for the government's remaining stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), effectively giving it a controlling stake in the country's largest geothermal energy producer.

During yesterday's submission of final technical and financial bids, the Red Vulcan group bested three other consortia with a bid price of P58.5 billion, or P9.75 per share.

The group's bid was more than P13 billion higher than the P45.08-billion floor price that the government set for the PNOC-EDC stake.

Apart from Red Vulcan, which also had Spalmare Holdings BV and Prime Terracota Holdings Corp. as members, only the consortium led by Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC), FDC Geo-Energy, was able to meet the government-set reserve price.

The FDC-International Power Masinloc Holdings Inc. consortium was a far second, with a bid of P48.5 billion.

The two other prequalified bidders, Aboitiz Power Corp. company AP Renewables and the San Miguel Energy Corp.-led Panasia Energy Holdings Inc., both bid lower than the P45.08-billion floor price.

Panasia Energy placed a bid of P39 billion, while AP Renewables put in a bid of almost P33.2 billion.

In an interview following the announcement of the winning bidder, First Gen chief finance officer Francis Giles Puno said the win was very strategic for the company, as it aimed to further expand its foothold in the country's energy sector.

Nativity scene stars GMA, Erap

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—WITH CHRISTMAS JUST around the corner, a Cebuano businessman has decided to use the nativity scene to send a message across: Put and end corruption in government.

The message is contained in a giant nativity scene that uses the faces of President Macapagal-Arroyo as Virgin Mary and former President Joseph Estrada as Joseph, which Businessman Vic Alvarez placed outside his New Cinema Theater along Colon Street in downtown Cebu City.

"(I came up with this nativity scene), so both (Arroyo and Estrada) would veer away from corruption. They should realize that they are the father and the mother of our nation," said the 59-year-old moviehouse owner from Barangay Bulacao.

Alvarez said he wanted to declare his wish for better governance when he decided to put up the giant nativity scene made of tarpaulin at the upper portion of the façade of the building where his theater is located.

Alvarez recalled that before the Presidential elections in 2004, he also placed a huge tarpaulin featuring the faces of the then presidential contenders—Ms Arroyo, Senator Panfilo Lacson, business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, the late senator Raul Roco and the late movie icon Fernando Poe Jr.—in Santa Claus attires.

President Arroyo's administration has been rocked with several alleged anomalies such as alleged bribes in the National Broadcasting Network (NBN) deal, and the giving of cash baskets to local government officials. Estrada, on the other hand, was convicted for plunder but later was granted a presidential pardon.

Alvarez said he made his unique nativity scene so that "the national officials will realize how their constituents, including the small businessmen, were suffering."

With Arroyo and Estrada together, Alvarez said, he also hoped for a real reconciliation in the country and an end to squabbling among the leaders.

The scene drew mixed reactions from pedestrians: From amusement to anger.

Corrections

IN THE NOV. 21 ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE story—"Prison break to combat climate change"—misstated that a group of prisoners will be getting out of jail to plant trees at the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila. Tapped to plant trees at the forest park are probationers, parolees and pardonees—all of whom are out of jail. The same story also carried an erroneous breaker. The breaker should have read "Part of rehab program"—not "Part of what program."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

The Daily Gospel

Thursday, November 22, 2007
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
Cecilia

1st Reading: 1 Mac 2:15-29
Gospel: Luke 19:41-44

When Jesus had come in sight of the city, he wept over it and said, "If only today you knew the ways of peace! But now your eyes are held from seeing. Yet days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you with barricades and shut you in and press on you from every side. And they will dash you to the ground and your children with you, and leave not a stone within you, for you did not recognize the time and the visitation of your God."

Commentary

Mattathias and his sons, as leaders in the community, are urged to disobey so that the people will follow and so that they will be friends of the king, given bribes and will eventually become rich. But he refuses. And he kills someone who breaks the covenant and he also kills the messenger of the king. This is not faithfulness, but political/religious war/revolt. It may be zeal, but it is misplaced. To preserve his life, he flees into the desert along with his sons and several others. This is the earlier covenant, ancient history with primitive responses to equally harsh and brutal powers. But it is not anything like Jesus' response to such violence (the Romans occupying Israel throughout his lifetime). Jesus, the prophet and the obedient servant of God, weeps over the city of Jerusalem who slaughters the prophets (much like the twisted zeal of those who think that killing their enemies makes them acceptable to God). The result will be destruction and more killing. Those who belong to God in Jesus must weep and mourn but not harm anyone else no matter what happens in history.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

Palace shrugs off slay plot on JDV, son

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOT against Speaker Jose de Venecia and his son is not being taken seriously by Malacañang.

At a press conference, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said nobody had come out to corroborate the claim of the De Venecia camp that Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and two other officials wanted to assassinate the father and son.

"We have to leave it at that. No witness has come forward to say that they have personal knowledge on the threat on the members of the family of the speaker. Now, we don't know anything," said Ermita.

Ermita could not confirm the claim of lawyer Raul Lambino, counsel for the elder De Venecia, that Speaker had indeed told Ms Arroyo about it, saying:

"I have no personal knowledge if indeed Attorney Lambino has spoken to the President about it."

Saludo, on the other hand, for his part, described Lambino's testimony on Tuesday in the Senate of the alleged threat as "hearsay."

"In court, this is not given much weight," he said.

Ermita, however, said Malacañang would agree to augment the Speaker's security detail but only if he would ask for it. So far, he said, De Venecia had not requested additional security.

Malacañang will not also volunteer to help an ally in distress.

"The Speaker as leader of the House of Representatives is quite capable of being able to handle the case leveled against him in the Ethics Committee. I don't suppose there is a need for any such action. What do you do with an ally?" said Ermita.

Ermita said the Palace was confident that the Speaker "will be able to cope with that particular problem."

UST Law reunion

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas Law Alumni Foundation Inc. will celebrate the 273rd anniversary of the Faculty of Civil Law on Nov. 24 at Dusit Hotel in Makati City.

This year's theme being "Balik USTe, Balik Saya, Balik Tanaw," all UST law graduates are invited to take part in the yearly alumni reunion.

The homecoming will start promptly at 6 p.m. with a Jubilee Mass. Deserving alumni will be awarded and given citations, followed by the presentations of the jubilarians (gold-1957, emerald-1962, ruby-1967, coral-1972, pearl-1977, silver-1982 and tin-1997).

Prizes will also be given away during the night of music and dancing. For inquiries, call Belen at 631-2801 or 631-2852.

Why don't you just Google? Atong told

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IF CHARLIE "ATONG" ANG IS NOT allowed to leave the country, he might end up going to "Google Earth" instead of personally going to Cambodia, where a three-month-old lottery consultancy job is awaiting him.

Appearing before the court yesterday, Ang appealed to the Sandiganbayan Special Division to let him go to Cambodia for a week. He said the job required him to personally inspect the site and observe how the company was running its lottery game so he could draw up a good design to perk up the business.

Ang, deposed president Joseph Estrada's former gambling consultant and coaccused in the plunder charge, received a job offer last August from 888 Corporation, a company that operates a lottery in Cambodia.

In offering Ang the job, the company cited his expertise in the numbers game.

But two months ago, the Special Division turned down Ang's request for a weeklong travel pass pointing out that he, a probationer, might abandon the jurisdiction of the court.

Paying off debts

His lawyers, Ruth Castelo and Alfredo Villamor, filed a motion for reconsideration, saying Ang needed to be employed so he could pay off debts. The court had imposed a P25-million penalty on him after he pleaded guilty to a lesser offense in the plunder case of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"Is there really a need for you to go there? Why just not log on to Google Earth so you could come up with the design?" suggested Associate Justice Francisco Villaruz Jr. which drew laughter from the audience.

Villaruz was referring to the virtual globe program accessed through the Internet which provides 3D overviews of cities, mountains and other terrain, local businesses, driving directions and maps. The digital program even shows the shadows of people, street signs, the colors of houses and cars obtained from satellite imagery and aerial photography.

Villaruz also reminded Ang that he was not different from other convicts in the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City. "The only difference is you are serving jail time outside," he said.

Ang was placed under two-year probation in May, two months after his conviction for indirect bribery.

Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo-De Castro also asked Ang if he could just ask the company officials to come over to the Philippines instead of him going to Cambodia.

"He needs to go there for a one-time meeting with the executives and then after that, their [dealings] will be done through a teleconference, your honors," Villamor informed the court.

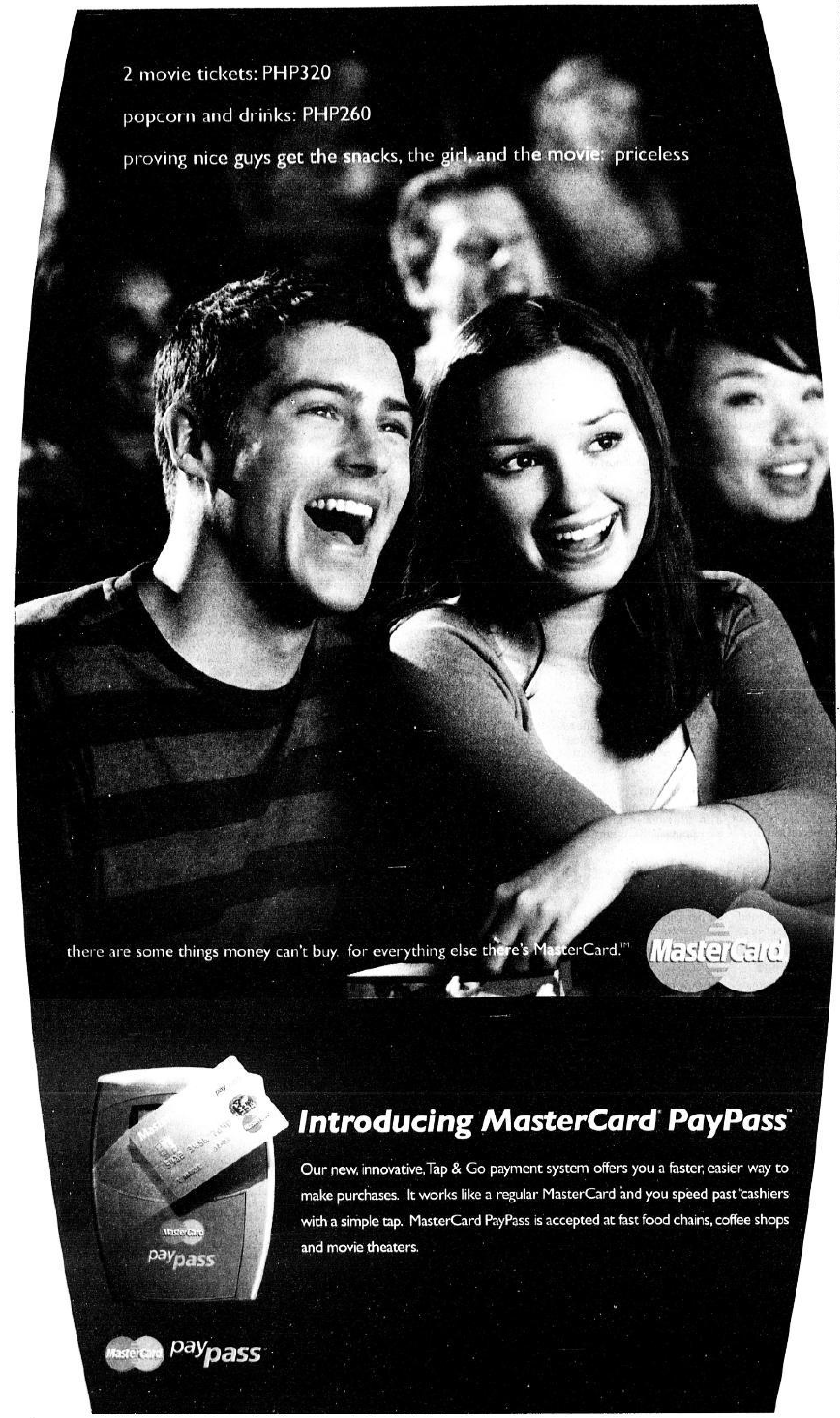
The prosecution posed no objection to Ang's request and there was a lot of court banter about the possibility of prosecutors tagging along with Ang to learn the secrets of lottery. This elicited much laughter from court observers.

Two-year probation

"We are not against his travel to Cambodia but we stand by our previous opinion that the duration of the trip would not be included in the computation of his two-year probation," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

To assure that he would not go into hiding once in Cambodia, Ang also said he would post a P500,000 travel bond upon the advise of Castelo. The justices took note of his manifestation.

"But we still have to deliberate among the three of us if we will [grant your request]," said De Castro.



2 movie tickets: PHP320

popcorn and drinks: PHP260

proving nice guys get the snacks, the girl, and the movie: priceless

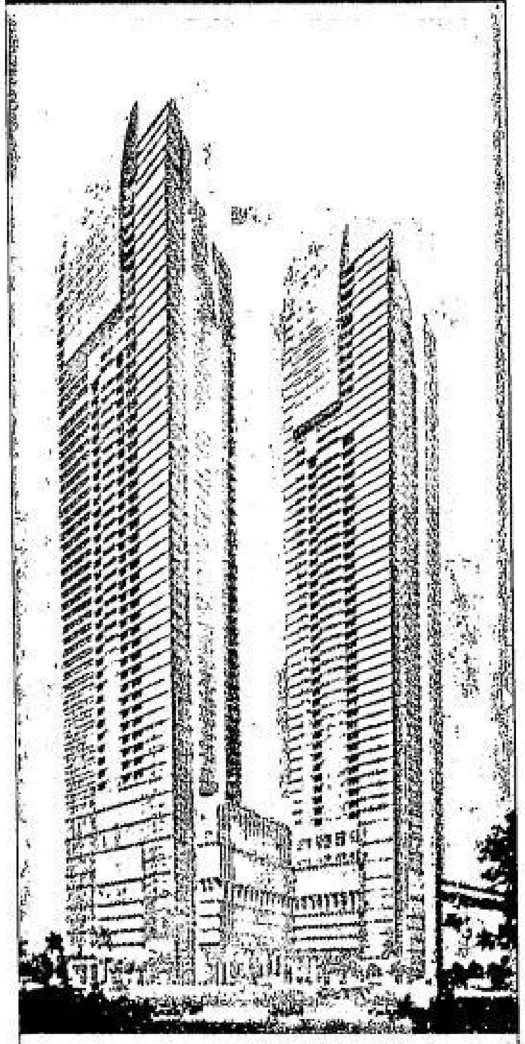
there are some things money can't buy. for everything else there's MasterCard.™

MasterCard

Introducing MasterCard® PayPass™

Our new, innovative, Tap & Go payment system offers you a faster, easier way to make purchases. It works like a regular MasterCard and you speed past cashiers with a simple tap. MasterCard PayPass is accepted at fast food chains, coffee shops and movie theaters.

THE ST. FRANCIS
SHANGRI-LA PLACE
The Ultimate in City Living



Rising 60 storeys above the Ortigas skyline, The St. Francis Shangri-La Place sets the standard for practical comfort and luxury living.

A project of Shang Properties, the property development arm of The Kuok Group, The St. Francis Shangri-La Place is an essential component of the integrated Shangri-La Place community and is linked to the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel and the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, with its wide range of upscale shopping choices, entertainment venues, and dining options.

Now working on the [illegible] construction is in full swing with turnover scheduled for the [illegible]

634-8080
or 634-8111

Or visit our showrooms at Level 1,
Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City

www.thestfrancistowers.com

SHANG PROPERTIES
Asian Heritage. Global Perspective.

HLURB L/S # 13493
See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0954, Series of 2007

Palace seeks resumption of WB road loans to RP

From page A1

A Reuters report, however, said the World Bank would not resume loans to fund the construction of Philippine roads until it completed investigations of reports of bid rigging in NRIMP Phase 1.

The report quoted World Bank spokesperson Peter Stephens as saying: "Our position remains as it was, which is that we want this project to go ahead but it has to go ahead in the right way and at the right time.

"The president of the World Bank has been explicit in saying that it won't go back to the board until there has been a review of the anticorruption aspects of it to make sure that the lessons and the findings of the investigations are fully taken into account.

"We certainly want this project to go ahead, but there is no suggestion that we are making any recommendation to proceed now."

The World Bank on Monday said that it rejected two large road contracts, worth around $33 million, between 2003 and 2006 because of evidence of "collusion and excessive pricing" in three rounds of bidding by companies.

Technically speaking...

Andaya spoke with reporters twice yesterday on the loan deferment that Malacañang described the other day as the result of an "internal row" in the World Bank.

In a news conference earlier in the day, Andaya quoted Maryse Gautier, acting country manager of the World Bank, as telling him that she would push for the lifting of the suspension of the loan package intended for NRIMP Phase 2.

Clarifying later, Andaya said that "technically speaking," the World Bank had not suspended the loan package because NRIMP Phase 2 was still being deliberated on by the agency's board, and its implementation had yet to begin.

Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo also told Malacañang reporters as much.

"Phase 2 of NRIMP has not yet started. It's scheduled for next year," Andaya told reporters in a phone patch interview.

"The DBM and World Bank have agreed to institute safeguards by adopting our rules [on government procurement], which in turn will facilitate the resumption of deliberations on NRIMP Phase 2," he said.

The agreement to adopt the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (Philgeps) was signed yesterday. Andaya said the World Bank viewed this as one of the reforms that could lead to the resumption of deliberations on NRIMP Phase 2.

In his press conference and in his second interview, Andaya said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and the World Bank spokesperson would hold a news conference today on the matter.

INT report

Andaya said it was Gautier who had sought the meeting with him, and that when he told President Macapagal-Arroyo about it, she told him to make sure "to impress upon [World Bank officials] the procurement system that we are putting in place."

He said that according to Gautier, the loan package was suspended because the World Bank was awaiting a report on the findings of its investigation unit, the Department of Institutional Integrity (INT) on NRIMP Phase 1 road contracts.

"Walang sinasabi yun board na meron o nagkaroon ng katiwalian o nagkaroon ng collusion (The board is not saying that there were irregularities, including collusion)," Andaya said.

"What the country manager told me was, The decision to suspend was [made] because the board has not yet received the report," he said.

Andaya said the INT had completed its investigation and had probably submitted its report to the World bank board.

He said the report was confidential, and that he had no idea of its contents.

"But whether it's favorable or not, the World Bank country manager will recommend [the resumption of the deliberations for NRIMP Phase 2]," he later said.

When asked whether the INT report would have any bearing on the resumption of deliberations on NRIMP Phase 2 implementation, he said: "The message that I got was the bank's concern for safeguards.

"What happened to the bidding process and how to improve it to protect the funds is the report that they are waiting for..."

Should local officials be found involved in the purported irregularities, he said these cases would be investigated by the Office of the Ombudsman.

"Let the chips fall where they may if anomalies really happened," he said.

'Little' incident

But the good news, Andaya said, was that after this "little" incident, the relationship between the government and the World Bank had been strengthened even more.

He said this was because the multilateral lender would adopt the bidding process of the government—or Philgeps—in implementing NRIMP Phase 2.

Andaya said the World Bank would adopt the Philgeps in implementing projects in the Departments of Public Works and Highways, Health, Agriculture, and Environment and Natural Resources, and the Local Waterworks and Utilities Administration.

This is an "exception to the rule," of the World Bank, according to Andaya.

"The World Bank does not do this in other countries ... It will do this here as a pilot for the NRIMP," he said.

Later, Andaya presented to reporters a letter dated Nov. 5 and stating that the World Bank and Asian Development Bank had found the Philgeps acceptable "in the procurement contracts" for the banks-funded projects.

"This shows that they are convinced that our procurement system is better," he said.

Developmental program

Actually, the government still plans to pursue NRIMP, said National Economic and Development Authority Director General Augusto Santos.

"I'm confident that it will push through because this is a developmental program and it's the objective of both the World Bank and the Philippines to pursue it while at the same time addressing corruption issues," Santos told the INQUIRER.

"We have to receive a copy of the [INT] report and determine what steps to be taken... We'll wait for World Bank to approve it," he said.

Since the DPWH was the implementing agency of the questionable project, it must investigate the alleged bid rigging and report its findings to the World Bank, Santos said.

He also backed Andaya's earlier statement that the purported irregularities might have been due to loopholes in the World Bank's own procurement guidelines.

"Remember that the project was done in accordance with [the World Bank's] guidelines," he said.

In principle

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board gave its approval in principle to the $232-million soft loan for the NRIMP Phase 2 in June.

An approval in principle means that the proponent agency can go ahead and negotiate. But for the actual loan to push through, final approval from the BSP is required.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said no final approval had been given.

"Let's give the national government the chance to sort this out first. They are planning to take this up with the World Bank," he said. ***With reports from Doris C. Dumlao and Michael Lim Ubac***

GMA rushes home after hitting Burma

From page A1

ahead of schedule saddened by the plight of the victims of the recent typhoon ('Lando') but satisfied with the result of our efforts in Singapore," Ms Arroyo told reporters at her Shangri-La hotel suite.

"The Philippines will benefit from greater security, stronger economic growth and enhanced solidarity to make progress to protect our environment," she said.

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President would fly directly to Mindanao to meet with heads of disaster response agencies.

He said Ms Arroyo had already ordered the evacuation of thousands of people in the eastern Philippines, which is bracing for another tropical storm.

In a statement she read before leaving, Ms Arroyo delivered a strong broadside against the ruling junta in Burma.

"While we are pleased that we have incorporated language in the charter that advances human rights and democracy, we remain concerned that the forces of authoritarianism still move rather slowly toward democracy in Myanmar," she said, adding:

"Let me be clear. We embrace the advances of Asean but remain concerned about the pace of progress of Myanmar on the issue of human rights. We particularly deplore the treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi. She must be released, now."

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Trade Secretary Peter Favila have stayed on for the culminating activities of the Asean Summit, which ends with a commemorative meeting with the European Union today.

Blocked briefing

Before leaving one day ahead of schedule, Ms Arroyo completed her four bilateral meetings with Prime Ministers Thein Sein of Burma, Wen Jiabao of China, Lee Hsieh Loong of Singapore and Helen Clark of New Zealand.

She attended yesterday's East Asian Summit (EAS), along with the other leaders of the 10 Asean member-nations and their dialogue partners—China, Korea, Japan, India, New Zealand and Australia.

United Nations special envoy Ibrahim Gambari was to have briefed the leaders on the situation in Burma at the EAS—a briefing that Ms Arroyo had backed.

Burma, however, protested Gambari's planned presentation, and on Monday night the Asean leaders cancelled the briefing.

Ms Arroyo was given a private briefing by Gambari on Tuesday afternoon—the first for an Asean leader. After their meeting, Gambari went on to meet with the Asean foreign ministers.

On Monday, Ms Arroyo had a bilateral discussion with the Burmese prime minister on the sidelines of the Asean Summit.

During the meeting, she urged Thein Sein to release Suu Kyi and to accelerate the return of Burma to democracy.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters that Ms Arroyo made a similar statement in her bilateral meeting with Singapore's Lee.

Suu Kyi, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, has been under house arrest for 12 of the last 18 years.

Human rights

Ms Arroyo impressed Clark with her statement on the eve of the signing of the Asean Charter that all signatories, including Burma, must comply with its provisions, including those on human rights, Foreign Undersecretary Enrique Manalo told reporters.

Otherwise, Ms Arroyo said at the informal working dinner on Monday night, the charter would face a tough ratification process in the Philippine Congress.

The charter is Asean's first enabling document in the 40 years of its existence.

One member's failure to ratify the charter will mean it will not be in force.

"I think (Clark) was impressed by the strong statement," said Manalo, who was present during Ms Arroyo's bilateral meeting with Clark on Tuesday night where the two leaders discussed trade issues as well as the situation in Burma.

According to a Filipino diplomat, only Ms Arroyo made her administration's position on the Asean Charter known, although it was also the sentiment of certain other countries.

"She was the only who dared. All the others were of the same sentiment but didn't want to state it publicly," said the diplomat who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the record.

"The Philippines was brave," the diplomat added.

Important milestone

Ms Arroyo yesterday signed the Singapore Declaration that committed Asean to taking steps to address climate change.

Malacañang said the Philippine government stood to gain from the trade initiatives for an Asean Economic Community and an Asean Economic Blueprint, and the creation of a borderless community in the region for the free movement of goods and services.

In the prepared statement that she read before returning home, Ms Arroyo said: "The fact that Asean has signed a charter that is legally binding and that will create a more powerful regional bloc is an important milestone in the history of our region.

"It sends a signal that Asean countries are determined to play a large and more strategic role to move our region and each member-nation forward. The Philippine economy and our people have benefited from economic growth due to global engagement."

The chair of the high-level task force that drafted the Asean Charter is a Filipino, Philippine Ambassador Rosario Manalo.

Ms Arroyo also said increased trade in Asean nations would continue to accelerate the Philippines' economic growth, foreign investment and "the creation of good jobs for our people."

She declared that her administration would "not rest, in representation of the political leadership and constituency of the Philippines and as a member of Asean, in the pursuit of justice and reconciliation in Myanmar."

"We must be active in advocating peaceful reforms in that nation. It is good for Myanmar, for Asean and the world," she said.

Ms Arroyo also said she was "both happy and sad to return home to press forward with our agenda and focus on the needs of the victims of the recent as well as the incoming typhoons, and also the needs of the poorest among us during this holiday season."

Albay folk on storm path ordered to flee homes

From page A1

At 7 a.m. earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a three-day "preemptive evacuation" as Tropical Storm "Mina" was expected to develop into a supertyphoon and directly hit the province and the rest of Bicol on Friday night or Saturday morning.

"With two days in the open sea, it (Mina) has a big potential to become a very strong typhoon," Nathaniel Cruz, chief forecaster of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said in a press briefing in Quezon City.

When it makes landfall, Mina is expected to pack winds of more than 220 kilometers per hour, Cruz said. As of 10 a.m., it was spotted at 870 kilometers east of Bicol with 85-kph winds and gustiness of up to 100 kph.

Tropical Storm "Lando," which sliced through the Visayas with 70-kph winds and exited to the South China Sea yesterday, left at least 11 deaths and caused landslides and floods in many villages.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda convened the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council to prepare evacuation plans for around 654,000 villagers living near hazard-prone areas.

Albay classes suspended

Salceda ordered the suspension of classes in all levels to allow families to leave their homes and to clear schools to be used as shelters.

Some 100 more families from the villages of Sua, Ilawod, Tagaytay, Salugan and Quirangay in Camalig streamed yesterday afternoon to the Baligang Elementary School.

Navy trucks transported the evacuees while businessmen volunteered their cars, Abraham Ramirez, chief of the Camalig Disaster Coordinating Council, said in a mobile phone interview.

A total of 312 families or 1,263 people displaced by floods are already housed in the school, said social worker Mary Grace Nasayao of the local social welfare office.

Evacuees were still arriving until late afternoon. Mothers carrying infants and bags of clothing waited along hallways as more classrooms were being prepared as shelters.

Ging dela Rosa, 40, of Ilawod, said she decided to evacuate her family from their house near a river channel connected to one of the gullies of Mayon Volcano after floodwaters rose late Monday afternoon from an overflowing dike.

She said she feared another tragedy like Supertyphoon "Reming" late last year would happen.

"This time, when we heard warnings from the mayor's office, we wasted no time in packing our things. I had to think of the safety of my children," she said.

The municipal government has regularly donated food packs for them since Monday, Dela Rosa said. But, she said, many families did not have mats to sleep on.

She said her family was sharing space with 48 other families in one classroom.

Dela Rosa said most of the evacuees left family members to guard their properties against robbers.

More evacuees

Evacuation has also begun in Barangay Padang in Legazpi City, where hundreds of lives were lost last year, said Cedric Daep, chief of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council.

Mayors and disaster officials were ordered to draft evacuation plans for implementation today. They were also asked to determine safe evacuation centers that are wind-resistant, far from landslide-prone, coastal and mountainous areas, river channels and lahar zones.

Government volcanologist Ed Laguerta warned that areas devastated by Reming or those on the southern slope of the volcano and downslope of the river channels, were still at risk from the hazards Mina could induce.

Accumulated and hardened deposits from the last mudslides could be remobilized by heavy rain, he said.

Sorsogon

In Sorsogon, the municipal government in Irosin held on to its decision to send home evacuees who fled more than two weeks ago from flash floods that hit five villages.

As of yesterday, 164 families or 652 persons remained at the Gallanosa National High School, 40 families or 207 persons in Monbon, and 22 families or 129 persons in Barangay Mapaso.

Palawan's Puerto Princesa City declared a state of calamity as "Lando" brought total darkness by toppling electric poles and tearing away roofs of shanties along the shoreline.

At least 32 families lost their homes and were evacuated to the barracks of the military's Western Command.

Reports received by the City Disaster Coordinating Council said two Badjao children—Ambarani Jerani, 8, and Epit Astari, 5—died in Barangay Bagong Pag-Asa while paddling a boat from Roxas town in northern Palawan.

Plane crash

Also in Roxas, a plane carrying 41 styrofoam boxes of live fish strayed into a tree line after taking off under heavy rain and crashed. The two pilots—Capt. Anthony Cortez and Raymond Santos—survived with slight injuries.

The Department of Public Works and Highways yesterday announced the closure of national roads in the Cordillera and Bicol due to incessant rains and flooding brought by Lando.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the Saltan Bridge along Calanan-Pinukpuk-Abbut Road in Kalinga and the Banaue-Mayoyao-Aguinaldo-Alfonso-Lista Road in Ifugao have been closed to motorists because of mudslides.

The Sta. Maria Bridge along the Cabangan-Sta. Maria Road in Isabela was impassable.

Landslides blocked Bicol's Paraiso and the Binagasbaan road section in Catanduanes.

Mina's path

Mina, which was moving west at 19 kph, is expected to be 130 km east of Virac in Catanduanes on Friday morning and in Camarines Norte on Saturday.

No public storm warning signals have been raised, the weather bureau said, adding that "this disturbance is still far to directly affect the country."

However, Mina is expected to induce the northeast monsoon to bring moderate to heavy rains and trigger flash floods and landslides. ***Reports from Jaymee Gamil, Ephraim Aguilar, Bobby Labalan, Marlon Ramos, Redempto Anda and Geraldford Ticke, Inquirer Southern Luzon; and Margaux C. Ortiz in Manila***

American fugitive falls

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) YESTERDAY ordered the deportation of an American fugitive long wanted by federal authorities in the United States for killing a pregnant woman in Seattle, Washington 25 years ago.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan ordered the BI's law and investigation division to immediately conduct deportation proceedings against Robert Saquil Besabe, 51, who was turned over to the bureau last Wednesday by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Libanan said Besabe was arrested on Oct. 19 by agents of the NBI Interpol at the house of his girlfriend in Barangay Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite after an informant tipped authorities about his location.

"Besabe will be deported to the US to stand trial for his crimes," Libanan said, adding that the fugitive would likewise be placed in the immigration blacklist to prevent him from re-entering the country.

According to the NBI-Interpol, Besabe has been on the wanted list of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) since Aug. 16, 1982 when he shot and killed a certain Carolyn Montoya, who was then in the third trimester of her pregnancy.

Besabe and his former girlfriend, Eleanor Volasco, were riding the car that Montoya was driving in Seattle when the suspect asked the victim to stop and immediately shot her in the head.

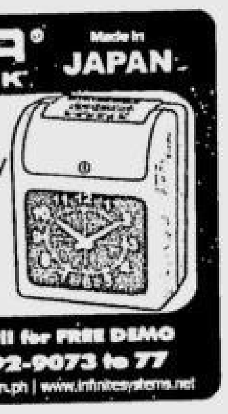
Besabe also fired at Volasco but missed her.

Besabe was later charged with first degree murder and second degree felony murder.

Margaux Ortiz

NIDEKA® BUNDY CLOCK Made in JAPAN
- 2 Color Printing
- Built-in Back up Battery
- Uses Standard Time Cards
- 1 Year Warranty on Parts and Service

INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77
Visit our website at www.bundyclock.com.ph | www.infinitesystems.net



THE MANILA RESIDENCES
2320 Taft Avenue, Malate
New
a 39-storey Commercial, Office and Residential Condominium

Great value for your money!
Agnes Pecjo-Ang
Proud owner of a Cityland Condominium unit

' My tenant pays for my unit's monthly amortization, this is where my investment is truly at its best! '

Own a unit for as low as P9,765/mo.
HLURB License to Sell No. 18618

CITYLAND
We commit, we deliver.
2007 Leading Condominium Developer
National Awardee Office of the President, HUDCC - HLURB

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	VITO CRUZ	MANILA
812-2222 818-8888	687-3333 www.cityland.net	567-3333	242-1212 243-6565

With BDO Loans, you may be surprised at what you can afford.

We make our loans affordable for you.

Don't let doubt and uncertainty stop you from getting what you've always wanted. Whether it's a brand new car, your very first home, a trip abroad, expensive household essentials or some must-have luxury items.

Come to BDO and you'll pleasantly discover that all these might just be within your reach. That's because at BDO, we find ways to make our loans more affordable for you.

Now that shouldn't come as a surprise to you at all.

We find ways

Call 631-8000 or visit your nearest BDO branch.

MegaLink
Member: PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000

THE ST. FRANCIS
SHANGRI-LA PLACE
The Ultimate in City Living

Experience Shangri-La Even Before You Move In

Enjoy the legendary Shangri-La warmth and hospitality when you purchase a St. Francis Shangri-La Place unit from November 20 until December 31, 2007:

[illegible]

Two nights' accommodations with Chi Spa treatments for two at Edsa Shangri-La.

[illegible]

Airfare, two-nights' accommodations, and Chi Spa Treatments for two at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and Spa.

[illegible]

Airfare and two nights' accommodations for two at Shangri-La Jakarta or Shangri-La Bangkok.

[illegible]

Airfare and two nights' accommodations for two at Shangri-La Singapore.

For promo details, call
634-8080
or 634-8111

Or visit our showrooms at Level 1,
Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City
www.thestfrancistowers.com

SHANG PROPERTIES
Asian Heritage. Global Perspective.

HLURB L/S # 13493
See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0954, Series of 2007

Port magnate tied to cash gifts

From page A1

merce, Lacson said.

"This is part of the P3-billion collectible of Romero from the government. I think the first tranche was released sometime July 2 or 7. We want to know if the entire P500 million was really credited to Romero's account because a portion of that could have been returned to the one who released it," Lacson said.

"That makes matters worse because it involves another corruptible act," said Lacson who offered no documents to back up his claim.

Arturo Manuel Jr., executive vice president of the Bank of Commerce, declined to answer Lacson on whether Romero was a client, saying "it may involve secrecy" of bank transactions.

Executive Director Vicente Aquino of the Anti-Money Laundering Council also told the hearing that it did not investigate the huge amounts of cash gifts because it could not link the money to an "unlawful activity."

Romero denial

In a statement, Romero "strongly denies any involvement of R-II Builders in the distribution of cash gifts to certain local government officials and congressmen in Malacañang."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday reiterated that Malacañang had not released any funds to local officials.

On Oct. 11, President Macapagal-Arroyo met separately with 90 congressmen and 200 members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines amid a fresh attempt to impeach her. Panlilio and several other officials and congressmen later said they were given from P200,000 to P500,000 in Malacañang during the affair.

The opposition said the cash gifts were handed out in a bid by Malacañang to get its allies in the House to consider an impeachment complaint regarded as weak so that it could easily be squelched and spare Ms Arroyo a stronger ouster move this year.

The League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) has said it was the source of the money given to the governors.

Ms Arroyo's political party, Kampi, has also acknowledged giving P500,000 to at least two congressmen who had publicly admitted receiving the cash gifts.

Lacson previously claimed that the cash gifts were sourced from the Philippine National Police's counterinsurgency funds. Lacson, however, clarified yesterday that the PNP money was given to congressmen, not to the governors.

'Solid information'

Lacson later told reporters he had "solid information" although he admitted that he had yet to firm up the Romero connection.

But some senators said it could be difficult to pin down the exact source of the money even though the cash gifts were wrapped in Bank of Commerce seals.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said it could be possible that the money could have been withdrawn from another bank but the Bank of Commerce wrappers were retained.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal asked for a copy of the footage taken by the closed-circuit television camera of the Bank of Commerce branch in Angeles City, Pampanga, on July 3 and 22 or the days marked on the wrapper that the Senate believed was day the money was withdrawn.

Mendoza testimony

Of the 23 governors invited, only Bulacan Gov. Joselito R. Mendoza attended the hearing. Mendoza was tagged by Panlilio as the one who gave him the cash stuffed in a brown paper bag in Malacañang.

Mendoza confirmed Panlilio's earlier testimony except for one detail. Mendoza claimed that Panlilio was present when he handed the cash gift to Panlilio's chief of staff. This is contrary to the former priest's claim that he only saw the brown bag with the cash gift on board his vehicle.

Mendoza revealed that it was Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone who requested him to give the cash meant for barangay and community projects to Panlilio. Mendoza said that he even signaled to Evardone that Panlilio had agreed to accept the money. Evardone was among the governors invited but he did not attend.

Like Panlilio, Mendoza believed that the cash gift was not a bribe because there was no favor being asked and that the money was meant for the community.

Gifts from LPP

Unlike Panlilio, however, Mendoza believed that the funds came from the LPP, but he had no knowledge how the organization got this huge amount. LPP said the money was from its "capability building program."

Mendoza said that he got the bags with cash from an unknown lady in white in one of the offices in Malacañang with Local and Interior Government Undersecretary Austere Panadero and Gov. Eddie Bong Plaza present.

Mendoza said he entrusted the cash to the provincial treasurer on Oct. 16 who promptly deposited the money at the Malolos branch of Land Bank of the Philippines.

Two days later, he got a reply on his inquiry on the origin of the money from Office of the President finance director Gloria Bundoc who said that it did not come from Malacañang. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño*

Romero: From Smokey Mountain to Dos Palmas

From page A1

contract null and void, but the tribunal in August upheld the validity of the deal.

About 79 hectares of the former dump and reclaimed land were transformed into the Manila Harbour Centre. Romero's port terminal operation rivals the International Container Terminal Services Inc. of Enrique Razon, who is close to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband.

Romero also got involved in newspaper publishing when he bought 60 percent of the shares of Manila Times from the Gokongwei family in July 1999 but sold them four months later.

In May 2001, Romero and 19 others were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf at the Dos Palmas island resort in Palawan. He escaped with two other hostages the following month, reportedly during a clash between the kidnappers and troops in Basilan.

A Basilan official said Romero did not escape, but was freed by the Abu Sayyaf after his family paid a P10-million ransom. Then Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said Ms Arroyo knew about the ransom, which reportedly amounted to P17 million—P10 million for the kidnappers, P5 million for the military and P2 million for the local government.

Romero has denied paying ransom. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

SUSMARYOSEP! CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

A movie theater in Cebu City is causing a stir by showing a big poster of President Macapagal-Arroyo as Mary and former President Joseph Estrada as Joseph. *(See story on Page A4.)*

Dutch judge closes murder probe of Joma

jailed when prosecutors announced plans to prosecute him in the Netherlands for murders he allegedly ordered carried out in the Philippines—but he was ordered released by The Hague District Court in September, due to lack of evidence.

Prosecutors appealed, but judges of The Hague Appeals Court upheld his release, adding that there was a "possible political context" to the charges against Sison—who is on the EU's list of terrorism suspects.

In Wednesday's strongly worded ruling, the investigating judge said prosecutors had also failed to show grounds for continuing Sison's investigation.

SISON

"It has been decided up to the highest possible court that no serious suspicions against the suspect can be deduced from the current dossier of evidence against him," C.M. Derijk's written decision said. He criticized prosecutors for not responding to that basic issue in their request to continue the case, filed on Nov. 16.

As things stand "there are no grounds for continuing the investigation," Derijk said.

The prosecution spokesperson said, however, that prosecutors would exercise their right to continue investigation without sanction of the judge.

"It's an unusual situation," he said.

Reached by telephone at his home in Utrecht, Sison applauded the judge's decision and said it removed one obstacle for the resumption of peace talks between the Philippine government and the nearly 40-year communist insurgency.

Sison describes himself as chief political consultant to the National Democratic Front, an umbrella group of leftist organizations that includes the outlawed communists.

Talks with the NDF have been frozen since mid-2004, and this year the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo has both issued an amnesty proposal to rebels and vowed to stomp them out before her term in office expires in 2010.

Dutch prosecutors accuse Sison of ordering the murder of Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004. The Communist Party of the Philippines, which the European Union designated a terrorist group in 2002, has claimed responsibility for both slayings.

Sison helped found the CPP in 1968, but spent 10 years in prison under the regime of Ferdinand Marcos and has been in the Netherlands for 20 more.

Sison, who denies any role in the killings, says he has been gone too long to hold any direct power in the organization. *AP*

PNP: Ex-mayor admits role in plot to kill Akbar

From page A1

Three suspects—Caidar Aunal, 41, Ikram Indama, 35, and Adham Kusain, 21, were arrested following a gun battle in Payatas, Quezon City, on Nov. 15.

The three were named in a murder complaint filed by police in the Department of Justice. They have confessed participation in the Batasan bombing and said their target was Akbar, according to police.

At least 2 plots

Three suspected Abu Sayyaf members—Abu Jandal, Redwan Indama and his wife Saing—were killed in the Payatas encounter that broke out when police attempted to serve an arrest warrant for kidnapping on Jandal.

Revelations of the detained suspects have uncovered several plots to kill Akbar, including an attack on his house at Valle Verde subdivision in Pasig City and the Sulô Hotel attempt.

On Monday, police raided Pepe's Inn and arrested Jamiri and his aide, Halik Usman. Traces of nitrates, an ingredient of explosives, were found in Jamiri's room, on his clothes and on the motorcycle that was to be used in the Sulô Hotel plot.

Usman was later released but Jamiri was detained for carrying an unlicensed .45-cal. pistol.

On Tuesday night, Jamiri led police to the house on Avella, where a bomb was found in a hole filled with water. It was later defused.

Alva said that based on the statements given by the three detained suspects, Redwan Indama and Jandal were directing and leading the operation against Akbar.

Redwan Indama was said to have given instructions to Jamiri and the others on how to put the bombs together.

Bomb components

Jamiri was said to have been offered P500,000, but police have yet to determine if the amount was for killing Akbar or for hiding the bomb.

Barias said police were still zeroing in on the mastermind of the Batasan bombing. "We are very optimistic that we'll find out the truth regarding this blast in Batasan sooner or later. The mastermind will be revealed in due time," he said.

A police officer, who declined to be named because he had no authority to speak on the case, told the INQUIRER that while Jamiri was part of the plot to kill Akbar he might have been "compartmentalized" from the Nov. 13 operation on the Batasan.

Chief Insp. Ramon Pranada of the Manila police explosives and ordnance division said the bomb found Tuesday night was rigged inside a tin can sealed with epoxy.

Pranada also said investigators had found a brownish powder which they assumed to be TNT, a booster charge made of RDX, two improvised blasting caps and nails as shrapnel.

He said that when the bomb was discovered, it was already rigged and ready to explode. "All that was needed was a switch from a cell phone or a remote control for the bomb to go off."

Motorcycle modified

Pranada also said the compartment of the motorcycle was "modified" so the bomb could fit. Pranada showed reporters the compartment where a portion was sawed to make way for the bomb.

All in all, the bomb weighed around three kilos. "We will expect the same damage caused in the Batasan blast," Pranada said.

He said police were still trying to determine the "signature" of the bomb, or the way the bomb was put together, to determine its maker. But Pranada said there were similarities with the Batasan bomb in that it was rigged for a remote detonation.

Both Barias and Alva said the investigation had yet to reveal if Jamiri was a member of the Abu Sayyaf or any other terrorist group.

They also said police were still studying the possibility of filing charges against a certain Wilson Asanin, believed to be the owner of the house on Avella Street.

It pays to count, says study on pedometer

From page A1

lished international research on pedometer use, whether those who use the devices are more motivated in the first place, just benefit from the assistance, or both.

Also called a step counter, a pedometer is clipped to a belt or waistband. It counts the steps the wearer takes during the day. Pedometers range in price from $5 to $60, with simple yet reliable models costing around $20.

Dr. Dena Bravata and colleagues at Stanford University in California reviewed 26 earlier studies covering 2,767 people. Their analysis found that increasing physical activity depended on setting a goal and keeping a diary of the number of steps walked each day. Their report appeared in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Every night, you write down how many steps you walked that day," Bravata said. "By flipping back through your diary, you're able to see patterns: 'On the two days a week I took the stairs, I increased my steps.'"

Bravata, a practicing internist, wanted to recommend pedometers to her patients. But she "really wanted to know if these little gizmos that now are increasingly popular worked."

She and her colleagues analyzed 20 studies from the United States and Canada and half a dozen from Japan, Europe and Australia. The average age of participants was 49, and 85 percent were female because some studies targeted women.

27-percent increase

The research showed that pedometer users increased their physical activity by about 27 percent, walking about one mile more a day than they did before they started their step-counting routines.

Most of the studies established a baseline by asking these walkers not to change their usual activity while wearing a sealed pedometer, that is, one where they could not see the number of steps, for three to seven days.

On average, the volunteers lost a few pounds. And their blood pressure dropped enough to lower their risk for stroke and heart disease, according to Bravata.

Keeping a step diary was the key: Those who did not do that showed no significant increase in walking; pedometer users who did not have a step goal also failed to increase their physical activity.

A Japanese fitness movement sets a goal of 10,000 steps, but more modest goals also worked to increase activity, according to Bravata.

Short-term effects

"Our results suggest that the use of these small, relatively inexpensive devices is associated with significant increases in physical activity and improvements in some key health outcomes, at least in the short term," Bravata's team wrote in the report.

It is still unclear whether the effects are long-lasting, Bravata said. The studies followed patients, on average, for 18 weeks.

Dr. David Bassett Jr. of the University of Tennessee praised the analysis for pulling together what is known about pedometers and fitness. Bassett has done pedometer research, but was not involved in the new analysis.

"This puts us on firmer ground in saying what we know about the use of pedometers in changing behavior," he said.

The analysis was supported by a grant from the National Institute on Aging. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

Asian leaders focus on climate change

SINGAPORE—SETTING ASIDE DISAGREEMENT over Burma (Myanmar), Asian countries including some of the world's biggest polluters—China, India and Australia—yesterday pledged new protections against the devastation of climate change and global warming at their annual summit.

But critics dismissed the pledges as rhetoric that would do little to prevent carbon emissions, the main culprit behind global warming.

The one-day East Asia Summit was held after two days of contentious debate over military-ruled Burma, which overshadowed Tuesday's signing of a landmark charter to eventually turn Southeast Asia into an EU-style economic bloc.

On Wednesday, however, debate over the human rights crisis in Burma was largely set aside. The summit includes the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Climate change dominated the agenda and the leaders were expected to issue a joint statement calling on the international community "to urgently act to address the growth of global green gas emissions."

In the draft declaration, the 16 summit members pledged to take part in forging a new environmental blueprint to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

'Reheated rhetoric'

But Red Constantino, a Manila-based Greenpeace campaigner, dismissed the pledges as "reheated rhetoric" that pays lip service to the problem.

"The summit places huge emphasis on aspirational goals, but we believe aspiration is not a strategy at all and voluntary goals will not save the planet," Constantino said.

He also criticized the summit for looking to "false solutions such as nuclear and coal," adding that polluters such as Australia should "put a lid on their emissions" instead of signing such declarations.

Rafael Senga of the global conservation group WWF also said the declaration fell short of the region's ambitions.

"Major players in the region, like China and India, should show leadership in crafting a global consensus toward concrete targets and decisive action," he said.

He said the Singapore summit was the litmus test for the major climate conference next month in Bali, Indonesia, to create a successor to Kyoto.

The Kyoto protocol requires developed countries to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions to 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. But the United States and Australia have refused to join it because it exempts major polluters, China and India.

Australia, the world's worst greenhouse gas polluter per capita, says the emission targets imposed on it could hurt Australian industries while handing competitive advantages to developing countries.

Need for action

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters there were signs India and China had recognized they need to take action to stabilize and reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions.

"They are not going to take the view that only developed countries should deal with this issue," Downer added. "I think there has been a turning of the tide in terms of China and India's position on climate change."

China's booming economy has propelled it past the United States as the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide, the atmospheric pollutant that is primarily responsible for global warming.

Two-thirds of China's power comes from coal, which releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than any other energy source. Over the next five years, the country expects to complete at least one new coal-fired power plant a week.

In India, where several auto makers are competing to provide affordable cars to the country's enormous middle class, there were 300,000 cars registered last year in the capital New Delhi alone.

The government acknowledges that it expects the country's carbon dioxide emissions to grow fivefold by 2031, which would put India about where the United States is now with emissions.

The East Asia Summit also called on members to work to reduce by at least 25 percent their energy intensity—the amount of energy needed to produce a dollar of gross domestic product—by 2030.

Japan pledge

Separately, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda pledged $1.83 billion in loans over the next five years for environmental projects in Asia.

The projects include sewage disposal and sulphur dioxide scrubbing from power plant smoke stacks.

Tokyo also said it was ready to provide up to $10 million for a World Bank fund aimed at preserving forests, an issue Indonesia will push at the Bali meeting next month.

Japan, which is among the world's top five greenhouse gas emitters, also plans to launch a satellite by the end of March 2009 that would monitor greenhouse gas emissions and share the data with Asian nations. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

Rights body to shield Asean from foreign meddling

From page A1

ciation of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), whose leaders adopted on Tuesday a landmark charter, which among other things calls for setting up a human rights agency.

The report's mandate was to spell out the agency's powers and duties. The report's contents revealed the extent of Asean's reluctance to hold any of its members accountable—or to shame them—for outright human rights violations such as the Burma junta's recent crackdown on prodemocracy protesters in September that killed at least 15 people.

The international community has condemned the junta for its refusal to restore democracy and release Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader who has been under house arrest for 12 of the last 18 years. Asean has also been criticized for not doing enough to pressure Burma's military leaders.

'Long-term road map'

The human rights body, to be made up of representatives from Asean countries, should draft a "long-term roadmap" for the promotion of human rights, according to the report prepared by the task force led by Singapore.

Such a body should also have "respect for national independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and national identity of all Asean member states," the report said.

The task force recommended that the human rights body should uphold Asean's bedrock policy prohibiting member countries from interfering in one another's domestic affairs—an edict that Burma has often invoked to parry criticisms.

The report also said the rights body should oppose attempts by foreign countries to interfere in any Southeast Asian country's human rights problems.

The agency should "be faithful to Asean and its common interests and oppose external influence attempting to interfere in the human rights issues of any Asean member state," the task force said.

The rights body should conduct consultations and a public campaign on rights promotion and consider drafting an Asean declaration on human rights, it said.

The establishment of a human rights body had been the most contentious issue in the drafting of the Asean Charter because of strong opposition from Burma.

A Burmese diplomat, Thaung Tun, said that his country wanted the human rights body to become a "consultative mechanism" and that it should not "shame and blame" any Asean nation.

Asean's members—Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—held an expanded summit on Wednesday with China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Junta objection

UN envoy to Burma Ibrahim Gambari was scheduled to address the expanded summit, but Asean members withdrew the invitation after the Burmese junta objected.

Even so, Gambari met individually with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and some leaders. Gambari said he was hopeful that Burmese Prime Minister Thein Sein was sincere about efforts to restore democracy in the country ruled by the military since 1962.

"In my conversations with the prime minister, he reaffirmed his government's commitment to continue to work with the United Nations," Gambari told reporters after meeting with Thein Sein, adding that he intended to return to Rangoon (Yangon) soon.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said he was disillusioned by the pace of human rights reforms in the isolated Southeast Asian nation.

"We would need to see a lot of progress for us to feel satisfied that things are headed in the right direction in Burma," Downer told reporters. "We want to see not just talk, not just gestures and slogans, but we want to see action."

UN condemnation

At the United Nations, the General Assembly went into action on Tuesday, putting Burma back under the international spotlight by passing a resolution strongly condemning the military regime's suppression of antigovernment protests.

But Burmese Ambassador to the United Nations Kyaw Tint Swe immediately dismissed the censure, saying the regime was neither discouraged nor surprised.

The nonbinding text, adopted by a vote of 88 in favor and 24 against, with 66 abstentions, "strongly condemns the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators who were exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression and to peaceful assembly and association."

The resolution also expressed "grave concern" over the "ongoing systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms" and the "arbitrary detentions, including the use of physical violence, in response to peaceful protests, and the extension of the house arrest of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi."

The Burmese envoy, however, said he was satisfied at "being able to send a loud and clear message that exploitation of human rights for political purposes is not acceptable by Burma and many others."

Endorsement

The UN resolution, which was cosponsored by European countries, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, is expected to be endorsed by the full 192-member General Assembly next month.

Voting against were China, Russia, India, Bangladesh, Cuba, Venezuela and some of Burma's partners in Asean, like Malaysia, Laos and Vietnam.

Other Asean members—Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei—abstained, while Cambodia did not take part in the vote.

Amnesty International has estimated that 700 people arrested during the September protests were still in detention, although the Burmese junta said only 91 of the 3,000 people originally rounded up were still being held. *Reports from AP and AFP*

THE GENERICS PHARMACY
MABISA na, MATIPID pa !!!
20% DISCOUNT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
10-30
Para sa lagnat, trangkaso, sakit ng ulo
PARACETAMOL 500MG P0.50/TAB
Generic name of Biogesic, Calpol, Tempra, Tylenol
NOW HIRING! Licensed Pharmacist P12,000 Call 711-3933
QUEZON CITY (14) 459 Quezon Ave cor Banawe 396-5184, 712-4990 (MAIN)
(15) 157 A Bonifacio Ave corner Pag-asa St. 411-3002;
(16) Area 68 Luzon Ave cor Commonwealth 0919-536-2539
(17) 233 Mayon cor Nicanor Reyes Sta Mesa Heights 413-0311
PASAY (18) 2602B Taft Ave cor Protacio St 556-2106
(19) RL Hotel, 812 EDSA Malibay 853-8365
PASIG (20) Justice Jabson cor Lope K Santos San Joaquin 974-1583
(21) Unit 2 Urbano Velasco St. Pinagbuhatan 407-2444
MANILA (22) 1641 Blumentritt Sta Cruz 0917-527-6600
(23) 3910 A Francisco Sta Ana 0917-243-2446
(24) Cardinal Sin Bldg #9 Pedro Gil cor Paz, Paco 562-9507
LAGUNA (25) Balibago Complex, Balibago Sta Rosa 0916-944-1968
MALABON (26) Ever Supermarket, Gov Pascual cor MH del Pilar 287-4653
Franchise now! P400k to P600k Capital
Call Global 910-6544 to 45
FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UP at Taft, Pasay (Tues,Fri); St. Francis Square (Daily); Ever Malabon (M,W,Th,Sat)
160 locations at www.thegenericspharmacy.com

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
AR-2200
2200 PSI, Pro
P3,700
Commando 707
1500 PSI/2.5 HP
With Complete Accessories
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Now Only P39,500
TRX
1900 PSI, Pro.
Golden Jet
2900 PSI, 7.2 KW, Pro
Idrolava
1200 W, Pro
Guaranteed The Lowest Price In The Market
INDUSTRIAL HIGH PRESSURE WASHER UP TO 7000 PSI AVAILABLE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos
Exclusively Distributed by
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5245290 • 5244328 • 5240529
Sun Cellular: 0922-8825326 • 0917-7896670
646 QUEZON AVE Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

Panasonic
PABX Telephone System
• Call Transfer
• Music-On-Hold
• Call Privacy
• Intercom
INFINITE SYSTEMS Call for FREE DEMO 892-9073 to 77
Visit our website at: www.infinitesystems.net

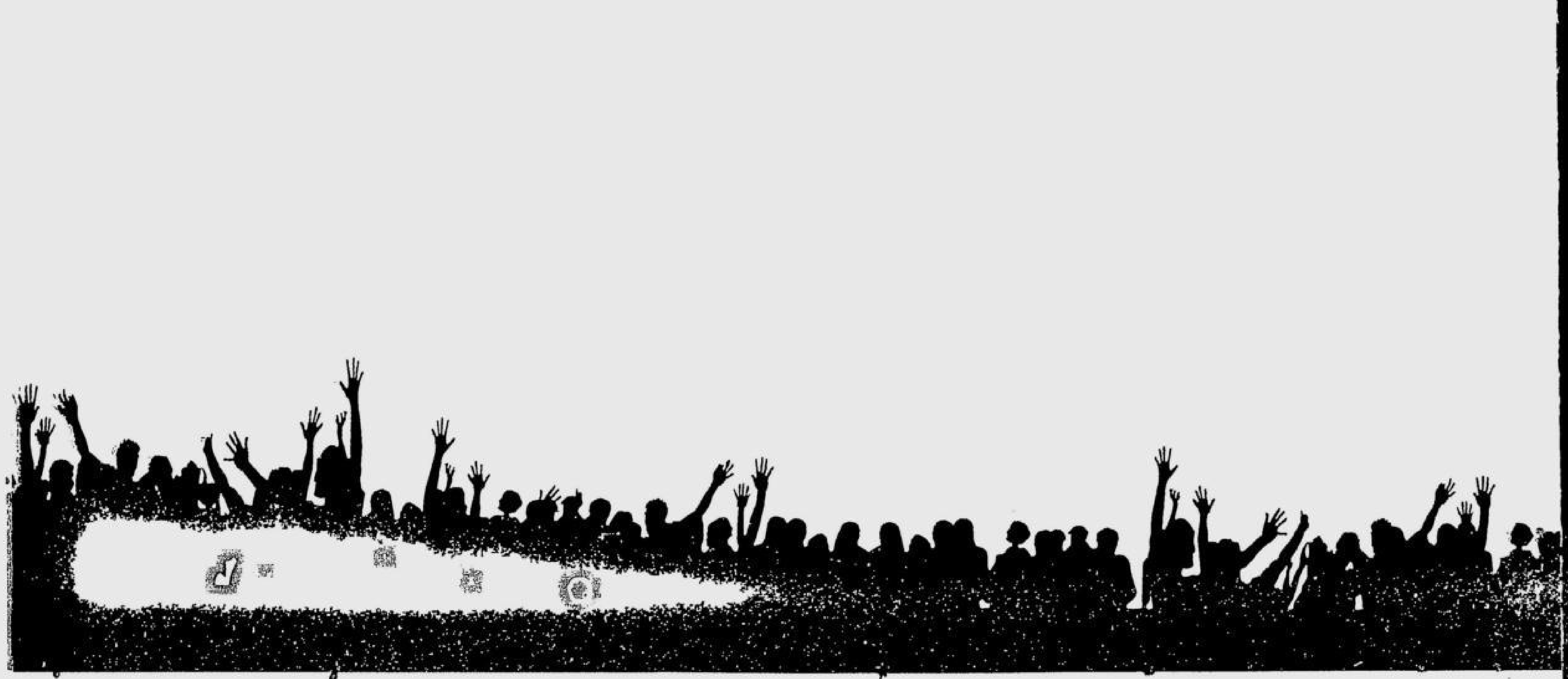
idec
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted Aircon
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Mounted Aircon 3hp P39,500,4hpP52,000 6hp P65,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000, 5hp P85,000
Free Installation!
Available at Ortigas & Macapagal, Home Depot Call: 3091265,2432610,2414731 09177949874, Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821 www.idec-aircon.com

Premium Door Mats
KLEEN-TEX
• Durable
Solution-dyed polypropylene fabric dries quickly and resists fading and deterioration
• Performance
Crush-resistant bi-level construction effectively removes and traps dirt
• Safety
Water Horse mats feature a 70-mil skid-resistant rubber backing.
Also available coil (spaghetti mat)
side view
top view
• Designed for heavy traffic soil areas
• Resists crushing
• Surface always kept clean
• Traps dirt & grime firmly
RIDDER Intelligent solutions for bath & shower
Shower Curtain
Bathtub Anti-slip Mat
Bathroom Mat
Bathroom Mat
DEXTERTON
Dexterton Corporation
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., (Near Damar Village) Quezon City
Tel.: 362-1111 ; 361-6006 Fax No.: 362-0524
E-mail: info@dexterton.com www.dexterton.com

VISAYAS
MINDANAO
TUBIG RASYON SA METRO, CL
30 LANG

KAHIT SAAN, NUMBER ONE.
Bandera
PANG-PINOY • PAMPAMILYA

THIS IS A NATI
WE ARE THE



ON OF INQUIRERS. IR NEWSPAPER.

Mega Manila
PDI — 48.73%
MB — 46.63%
PS — 42.97%

Balance Luzon
PDI — 63.89%
MB — 54.33%
PS — 41.96%

Visayas
PDI — 77.27%
PS — 53.64%
MB — 21.82%

Mindanao
PDI — 89.92%
PS — 56.72%
MB — 6.72%

Total Urban
Philippines/
Nationwide
PDI — 54.25%
MB — 46.85%
PS — 42.29%

Source: Nielsen Media Index Wave 1
2007 Figures: Among broadsheet readers yesterday.

**For making us undisputedly No. 1,
we thank our readers, advertisers and partners.**

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2007

ISSN
0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 22 No. 347

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/opinion
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 523-5570
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Bali beckons

EDITORIAL

THE SINGAPORE SUMMIT OF THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian Nations is turning out to be a rehearsal for what now appears to be the more important meeting next month in Bali, Indonesia, on global warming.

The summiteers know this. In the run-up to Bali, and even before they landed in Singapore, they agreed to increase the forest cover of a region, which is in danger of further depletion. Moreover, the leaders of 16 countries attending the Singapore summit agreed to promote the use of clean energy sources and to protect marine ecosystems.

Environmental groups have criticized the agreements as mere rhetoric—beautiful on paper but lacking in substance. They said the measures are not commensurate with the severity of the climate crisis.

The frustration of environmental groups is understandable. The Bali meeting is supposed to break the impasse of the Kyoto Protocol, which has been signed by nearly all countries, except for the United States, which, as the world's foremost industrial power, is the leading emitter of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, the culprit in global warming.

Those who want the Kyoto Protocol embraced by all countries want the Bali summit to trigger a new impetus toward the establishment of a more vigilant environmental regime, one that would finally meet the challenges of climate change and other ecological threats.

It is not difficult to share their sense of urgency. Last week, United Nations scientists gathered under the Nobel-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported on their review of various studies and literatures on global warming. They said they were 90 percent sure humans are to blame for rising temperatures worldwide. Based on current trends, they warned, surging emissions of greenhouse gases would mercilessly warm the earth's atmosphere, damaging ice and snow cover, causing oceans to expand and to rise.

The impact could be "abrupt or irreversible," the panel said, and the results would be like those in Egypt during biblical times: crop failures, storm damage, floods, cyclones and widespread diseases brought about by mosquitos, pests and water-borne viruses.

In identifying the wages of global warming, the panel strove to paint them in neutral, non-alarmist terms, obviously to fend off charges that their investigation is the product of the melodramatic excesses and overwrought imagination of environmental extremism. Their report should force policy planners, world leaders and the rest of humanity to take stock of the worsening environmental situation.

By sheer coincidence, the report was issued not only in the run-up to Bali but amid the havoc wrought by a particularly ferocious storm in Bangladesh, where nearly 3,000 people have already died. But it is not just Bangladesh that has borne the wrath of an intemperate climate. Almost every country has suffered from the seeming irrationality of weather patterns of late.

The developing economies of Asia have a stake in the global warming challenge. Worsening weather patterns and higher sea levels caused by climate change could reverse social and economic progress across the region.

To their credit, and despite the criticism by the environmental movement that their measures are merely stopgap and do not adequately address the problems, countries in the Asia-Pacific are putting forward suggestions to tame the global-warming monster. India has committed to expand its use of wind energy. So has China, an emerging solar power producer. The Philippines, the most advanced nation in Asia in the use of geothermal power, promises to expand its geothermal system.

For her part, President Macapagal-Arroyo has pledged to follow through in Singapore environmental issues concerning Southeast Asia, such as tapping renewable sources of energy and the conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems.

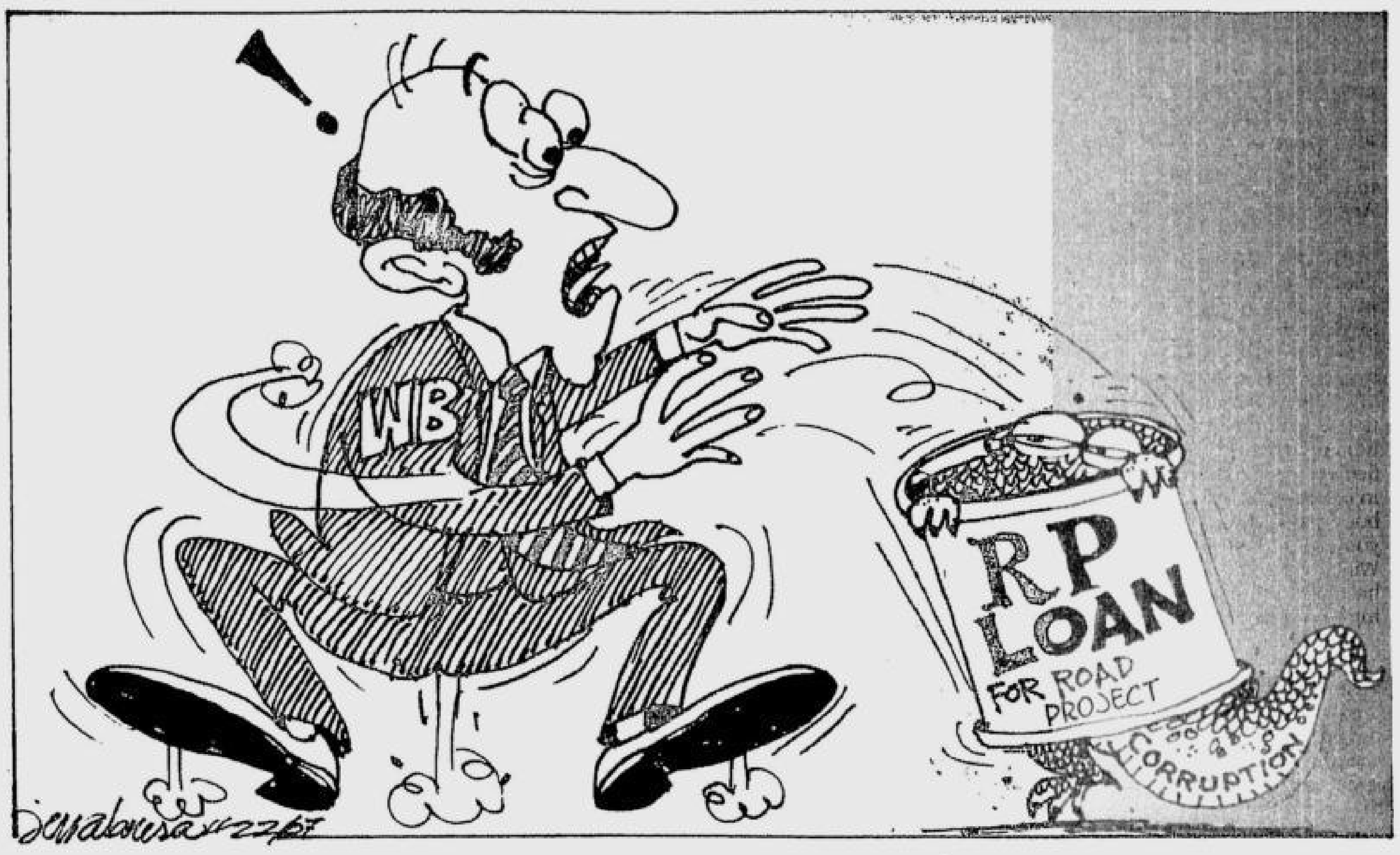
All this should impress upon the United States and the West that the ball is in their court. The highly industrialized countries remain the biggest polluter of the atmosphere. They should pay the price of their untrammeled industrial growth, and not charge the dire consequences to the developing economies of Asia.

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
Associate Editor for Readership **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, Page One Operations* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Chief, News Day Desk **RUBEN G. ALABASTRO**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **SANDY SIMON R. YAP**

Readers' Advocate **LORNA KALAW TIROL**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



'Stitching sheets of loose sand'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO ATIENZA spiked an order that stretched for six years a permit allowing Basey Wood Industries to log, yet again, in a 57,525-hectare concession on ecologically brittle Samar.

The country's last old growth forests cluster in Samar. They're crammed with diverse wildlife and plants. It is "one of the top 200 endangered spaces on the [planet]," World Wildlife Fund (WWF) says. The UN Development Program, the Global Environment Facility and the government launched the Samar Island Natural Park to protect this resource.

But former Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes unleashed Baswood loggers anyway. "I can't find any logic why we should allow the cutting of trees on such a massive scale," his successor told the INQUIRER. "We're concerned about climate change."

Atienza was referring to the report of the Nobel awardee Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "Abrupt and irreversible climate changes" would occur if business-as-usual practices are not decisively curbed, the report states.

The IPCC scientific analysis leaves "little wiggle room for politicians." Yet, San Jose Timber Corp. drove an opening wedge into Samar's 18-year-old logging ban. A politicking environment secretary, Mike Defensor, authorized Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's firm to chainsaw in a 95,770 hectare concession that straddles protected zones for 16 years and five months as "restitution." Got that?

These decisions reignite the old festering debate: Can forests be managed so that loggers, who've always corralled benefits with their political clout, finally share with impoverished forest dwellers? And can this be done while conserving the environment so it will meet today's needs, without hocking future generations' rights?

Yes, replied 155 foresters from 33 countries who met in Vietnam for the International Conference on Managing Forests for Poverty Reduction. But it'll take an overhaul of mind-sets and policies, says "A Cut For the Poor," the 247-page report on the Ho Chi Minh meeting.

All too often "forests have been off-limits to all but the privileged and powerful ... with their chain-saw gangs, skidders and testosterone-charged bulldozers," Food and Agriculture Organization's Patrick Durst said. Logs are big bucks, inviting illegal, shadowy activities. "When lucrative timber is at stake, local people are invariably shut out. If involved, they are usually wage laborers, who help harvest timber wealth, hauled or floated to cities—never to be seen again."

Does that describe today's forest plunder in Surigao del Sur? There, Picop razes the remaining timber stands like there were no tomorrow. No. Durst was speaking of the last 150 years' experience in Asia, showing how intractable poverty spurs the search today for ways of using forests other than bankrolling second mansions for loggers.

Forest dwellers huddle among Asia's poorest. There are about 60 million highly forest-dependent people in Southeast Asia, Latin America and West Africa. About 11 million Filipinos scrounge on less than a dollar (P43 at current exchange rates). Rural folk often turn to forest products as a "livelihood strategy of last resort."

Policymakers, however, claim allowing the poor to use forests results in degradation. "Forest-dependent poor are first in the line of fire for restrictive and punitive measures." The University of the Philippines' Juan Pulhin and Patrick Dugan, for example, document how Filipino rural families must draft complex forest management plans to harvest miniscule portions of timber.

Obsolete mind-sets buttress this unjust status quo. "Some foresters think forestry is about trees," FAO's Jack Westoby wrote in 1967. "This is wrong. Forestry is about people. And it is about trees only insofar as they serve the needs of people."

A people-centered approach is today's quiet revolution in forestry philosophy, Durst said. The conventional wisdom that bigger is always better in forestry is crumbling, albeit slowly. Will private companies and governments allow local people to extract and process timber that's uneconomical to remove from the forest? "Big trees have the potential to be a significant pathway out of poverty for many of the little people."

The task ahead is to "capture opportunities in forest harvest and wood processing to benefit the marginalized. New and rediscovered old technologies, plus marketing and institutional development, open windows of opportunity..."

"A Cut For The Poor" spotlights the need for action in: (a) Policies—Rules for small-scale operators must be simplified so the rural poor can participate. Simplification also curbs graft. (b) Economic Issues—Measures must shift the poor from merely providing labor. (c) Benefits—Community-based forest enterprises need clearer sharing arrangements. (d) Information—Data on new and rediscovered technology and markets must become available.

Poverty reduction is not a by-product, "A Cut For the Poor" stresses. It should be an explicit priority of forest management that engages the private sector. "Clear property rights, stable policies and strong local institutions are essential."

Reaching the rural poor is like "stitching sheets of loose sand," Sun Yat Sen once said. But the alternative is continued exploitation of people by misuse of a resource they have a right to.

* * *

E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com

Suggestions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S AN OLD JOKE, AND A BORROWED ONE, but it hits the nail on the head anyway: For most Filipino drivers, traffic lights are just a "suggestion." The affliction is well known to everyone who has had occasion to stew in traffic in any of Metro Manila's streets. Few of them are spared the plague now, including the side roads, at virtually any hour of the day especially on Fridays. But it's the explanations for how, or why, Filipinos, who are widely known to be hospitable or to go out of their way to please people, are transformed into maniacal road menaces when they get behind the wheel that are completely interesting.

Jose Regin Regidor, director of the UP National Center for Transportation Studies, says it could be impatience. The Filipino habit of doing things at the last minute forces him to drive aggressively to get to where he is going, if not on time at least not overly late. "There's this misconception that only public transport drivers are at fault. But in reality, the public utility and truck drivers are more predictable in their behavior compared to many private drivers who are *barumbado*."

Edgardo Juan Tolentino, president of the Group for Addiction Psychiatry of the Philippines, says it could be a case of lack of authority figures to enforce traffic rules. When there's no patrol car around, Filipino drivers will make a spurt when they see a yellow light, but when there's one, they will screech to a halt.

Felicitas Soriano says we have a destructive culture when it comes to traffic rules. *Gulangan, lamangan* and *isahan*—three words that mean the same thing, which is putting one over the other fellow—is ingrained in the Filipino driver's psyche and is unleashed at the touch of a wheel.

Doubtless, these theories individually and collectively yield a huge kernel of truth. True enough, the Filipino habit of doing things at the last minute induces near-homicidal/suicidal behavior on the road, and true enough, it's not just the drivers of taxis, jeepneys and buses that are the certified bullies there. Though while at this, my beef is far less that our streets are hazardous than that they are impassable, and public utility vehicles are easily the main culprits there. The problem isn't that the buses and jeepneys are in a rush, it's that they're not, hogging three quarters of the streets in Cubao and Quiapo, if not the entirety of them, while lying in wait for passengers.

While still at this, there's a whole slew of vehicles today whose drivers figure they are not covered by traffic rules. These are the motorbikes, the tricycles and the bicycles, which have been overrunning the streets like Atilla's hordes in the wake of skyrocketing gasoline prices. They twist and turn every which way, coming up behind you, beside you, everywhere around you, even in front of you. They are accidents waiting to happen, a wait that, if some of the twisted metal I've seen lately is anything to go by, won't be a long one.

True enough as well, when the cat is away, mice and Filipinos will play. A truism that unfortunately has also been used to justify martial law: Filipinos lack discipline and presumably therefore need an iron hand to do the simplest things. Look how obediently they follow traffic and other rules elsewhere. And true enough, Filipinos like to make shortcuts and think nothing of usurping the opposite lanes during traffic snarls, which snarls traffic even more because the other side does exactly the same thing. A practice grandly called "counter-flow," which however has the virtue of being accurate: It counters the flow of traffic and grinds it to a halt. Added to the imbecility is the fact that the traffic cop rewards the erring idiots by letting them go ahead to untangle the traffic.

The thing, however, is that this dysfunctional, or plain insane, behavior, doesn't just take place in our streets, which is why we probably need other explanations for it. It takes place everywhere. Some years ago, when it became a fad of sorts to supply endings to that phrase, "You know you're Filipino when...," I was tempted to contribute these things:

You know you're Filipino when you bump into a friend or friends on the door of a building and you exchange pleasantries there and then, oblivious to the fact that you're blocking other people going in and out. You know you're Filipino when you freeze in the middle of a supermarket aisle and have a conversation on your cell phone, oblivious to the fact that it's everything people can do to squeeze around you. You know you're Filipino when you park in front of a parked car, expecting him to push your vehicle out of the way when he comes back; when you talk loudly in a forum or movie house, not particularly minding that a speaker is speaking or that other people are intently watching the movie; when you throw soft drink cans, hamburger boxes, and wrappers outside the window of your van on the highway.

This is astonishingly barbaric behavior, and strikes a contrast with the Filipino's legendary capacity to be thoughtful and considerate of others. None of this has to do with impatience, with the morphing qualities of the wheel, with the presence or absence of cops, or even with a deliberate effort to hustle, screw, put one over another person. It's just being completely unaware of other people's existence.

I don't know the explanation for it, but ages ago, one college teacher of mine theorized that the one thing Filipinos never learned is civics, or a self-propelled sense of duty or sense of propriety, something ingrained in other Asians. I remember that I scoffed at the idea, thinking there must be a deeper—more activist-related—reason for why we were what we were.

But now I wonder: Could he have been right?

Baby steps for Burma

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT LOOKS LIKE THE 10-MEMBER ASEAN HAS decided in Singapore to treat Burma (Myanmar) like a baby learning to take small steps, instead of confronting it as a full-grown adult. Under tremendous pressure to make a stronger denunciation of September's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, the 40-year-old Asean obviously seeks a middle ground between its traditional but outmoded non-interference policy and punishing its errant member. This, while Asean allowed the creation of a new human rights body in its new charter, it gave in to the request of Burma not to allow UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari, who investigated recent developments in that country, to testify before the group. President Macapagal-Arroyo, however, met with him privately.

* * *

The new charter seeks to enhance democracy, good governance and the rule of law as well as protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Significantly, for the first time the regional organization established a human rights body, which was an initiative of the Philippines during the 12th Summit in Cebu last January. But the question is, will this body be toothless in the face of human rights violations such as Burma's? Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, who was instrumental in inserting the provision creating the new rights body, put it well: "That charter is good, but once you sign it, you must implement what is there." Will Burma continue to string along Asean, as it has done in the past 10 years? Will it still be taking baby steps toward democracy?

* * *

President Arroyo's invitation to Speaker Jose de Venecia to join her at the Singapore Summit augurs well for their working relationship. GMA probably asked JDV to come along, because he was the first speaker of any Asean legislature to address an Asean Summit in its 40 years, during the Cebu Summit. But he begged off, saying he had so much to do back here. It's also significant that his son Joey did not to show up at the Senate hearing, but instead wrote the senators a letter to say he has said everything about the ZTE issue. (Former Neda Director General Romulo Neri said the same thing to the Senate.) I think that the corruption issue is best left to the courts. For the next two years, it's best to strengthen the GMA-JDV partnership in order to enact the remaining reform legislation that will sustain the country's economic progress until 2010, when both leaders exit from public office. Obviously they have put aside their own private feelings involving their loved ones, and decided to work together in the interest of the country in the next two and a half years. Working for them is the pragmatic realization that apart they could both fall, as well as some sense of statesmanship.

* * *

An interesting forum-expo opens today at the new SMX Convention and Exhibition Center at the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City, until this Sunday, Nov. 25. This is an absolute must, as there are so many things to see and learn as well as handicrafts to buy. This is the Asean Handicraft, Promotion and Development Association's (Ahpada) first International Arts and Crafts Expo, participated in by the 10 Asean nations plus the United States, Japan, China, Canada, Bangladesh, Korea, South Africa, Mongolia, India, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Tunisia. These countries have put up dazzling pavilions for cultural events such as fashion shows, cuisine, dances and crafts and arts display. There will be workshops and forums where internationally renowned industry leaders, such as Mattiusi Iyaituk of Inuit Art Foundation of Canada, Roelf Mulder of the Cape Craft and Design Institution of Capetown, South Africa, and Surendra Shahi of Nepal who devised the catalogue system, will share their expertise in creating and marketing handicraft. One of the resource speakers on "country experiences" is Trade Undersecretary Carissa Cruz Evangelista, who'll speak on the "One Town One Product" experience. Visiting the expo should be most profitable for local government units, schools, businesses and NGOs.

* * *

Former Tourism Secretary, Mina Gabor, Ahpada's president, was the guest on the dzRH Sunday evening show Cecile Alvarez and I co-host. This bubbly dynamic lady explained that this expo-forum is in celebration of Ahpada's 25th anniversary and the participating countries are determined to make it a real success. With its theme, "Creativity & Innovation: A Renaissance," the expo is conceived as a potent tool of culture and tourism, which is why the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Tourism Authority are very much involved in this expo-forum. As Mina Gabor put it, gone are the days when tourists would just pick out any souvenir; now they want something that tells the story of the country they visited, which they will remember long after. Moreover, because of globalization, there's a fusion all around the world of the traditional and the innovative, be it in fashion, cuisine, dance and certainly in crafts. The buzz word is "connectivity."

* * *

Still connected with Asean and Asia, a special congress opened yesterday and continues till Nov. 25 in Tagaytay City, organized by the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCDs). Formerly known as Carmelite Tertiaries, the order is made up of lay men and women, married, single or widowed (as differentiated from Carmelites behind convent walls), who live by the doctrines of the three Carmelite doctors of the Church: St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross and St. Therese of Lisieux. More than 75 lay Carmelites from Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea and Indonesia are joining Filipino OCDs in Tagaytay to discuss and share in the theme, "Many Cultures, One Order." The OCDs are the "lips, arms, legs of the Carmelite nuns and are in the vanguard of the new evangelization of Asia, directed toward the welfare of its peoples."

Tempest in Tanon

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.—**Article II, Sec. 16 of the Philippine Constitution**

I IMAGINE THE LORD OF THE SEA WADING TO shore, wearing raiment of corals and sea grass and—flotsam surrendered by the sea. Thundering, roaring like the wind in a lost empty city, he seeks the despoilers of his ocean home and the home of gentle sea creatures that inhabit the earth and provide food for its inhabitants. Where are they? he roars. Who are they, they who laid waste the ocean garden?

This scenario plays like a movie in my mind, it surges in my consciousness like the thoughts and images I had long ago while beholding, somewhere, the sea in its threatening beauty. And I imagine now the threatened Tanon Strait in the Visayan Sea as it waits to be visited by turbulence in the form of exploratory drilling for gas.

The sea is a-boil. A slow, symphonic movement takes a sudden turn and climaxes with a roll of drums and a clash of cymbals. The sea quakes to a crescendo, then hurls itself against the wind. Here before you is a concerto at its most tempestuous peak. Water breaking into a million crystalline pieces. It is pure music and fury. Salt melts in your eyes. Suddenly you are no longer afraid.

A battle royale is set to unfold if Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. (Japex) starts exploring for oil on Tanon Strait, without having hearkened to protesting communities, scientists and environmental advocates who are asking that exploration be put on hold while the sea itself is to be explored to find out how much of it will live and how much will die.

Former Environment Secretary Angel Alcala, director of Silliman University's center for marine and environment research in Dumaguete City, and his team have come out with a paper explaining what the drilling will mean. They also proposed a technical survey of the strait as a safeguard against potential adverse effects of the exploration. (Drilling was supposed to start last week.)

What and where is Tanon Strait? The strait is part of the Visayan Sea, that body of water separating the island provinces of Cebu and Negros, and Cebu-Bohol Strait; separating the provinces of Cebu and Bohol, as well as the waters of Antique, Leyte, Palawan, Mindoro Occidental, Albay and Camarines Sur. The Visayan Sea is one of the richest marine habitats in the world.

Tanon Strait is a protected area, having been declared such under Presidential Proclamation 1234 issued by President Joseph Estrada.

The drilling is supposed to be done off Aloguinsan and Pinamungajan in Cebu, not far from Dumaguete City, the university town in Negros Oriental. According to Alcala, several community-based marine protected areas (MPAs) have been established in both the Cebu and Negros side of the strait and the local government units have been investing funds in the management of these MPAs.

Alcala adds that oil exploration (both the seismic exploration and drilling itself) has been proven in other countries to be detrimental to marine life. The Philippines has yet to come up with findings to back this up. Does this mean we don't wanna know?

Here is the proposition: "To gather data on marine mammals and fish catch; do oceanographic studies (total suspended solids, oil and grease, current patterns) before the actual drilling is conducted, so that there will be proof that can stand in any court of law later on should there be adverse impacts on the environment because of the drilling. An economic valuation study will also be conducted to prove that NOT drilling for oil and gas is beneficial to the communities in the area and to the country in the long run."

And, by the way, the strait is one of the few places in the world inhabited by special species of marine mammals, among them, the elusive pygmy sperm whales. More importantly, the strait is fishing ground for communities in Cebu and Negros.

It is worth noting that 11 congressmen and—women have filed a resolution directing the House committee on natural resources to investigate the impact of offshore mining in the Visayan Sea. This resolution was triggered by gas companies (Japex of Japan and The Forum Exploration Inc. of Canada) entering into a seven-year contract with the Philippine government for oil and gas exploration, and another 25 years for the extraction and controlling process.

The province of Cebu did not take this sitting down. The Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved last July a resolution exhorting Congress to proclaim the Visayan Sea a Marine Reservation and Heritage Site, that sea "being host to the world's richest marine biodiversity area."

The Sulu Sea had been identified as a disposal site for drillings. Alcala howls: "But the Sulu Sea is a prime fishing area and has high biodiversity!"

He adds that the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) was not sufficient and based on old data and "cannot be used as baselines for future monitoring of drilling effects and therefore not acceptable."

How did Japex gather the data? How are the data and their credibility to be verified? Alcala and his team have discovered holes in the IEE and concluded: "We found the IEE document wanting in the critical survey data and information needed for determining the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the proposed drilling operation of Japex."

After the tumult dies down and the threat is gone, we hope to hear in the Tanon Strait only the music of the cathedral waves eternally folding and unfolding.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

'Dangal'

COMMENTARY

Minguita Padilla, M.D.

ONLY THE MOST CALLOUS PERSON COULD not have felt some degree of outrage over successive cases of corruption in the last few months. The Senate investigation of the ZTE-NBN scandal, while far from being over, has already convinced even simple-minded individuals that the Filipino people would have been robbed of billions of pesos in kickbacks to shameless officials had the would-be-thieves not been stopped in their tracks.

Hardly had the revelations from the ZTE-NBN investigation sank in when we were again jolted by what could have been a scene from a black comedy: paper bags of various colors and sizes with crisp P1,000 bills amounting to up to P500,000 each being blatantly distributed to government officials on Malacañang grounds. So laden with arrogance and impunity was the incident, so lacking in any attempt at subtlety and so brazen that even Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was appalled. And true to form, the cover-up that ensued was worse than the crime—utterly insulting to our intelligence, reminding us again of how little regard some of our top leaders have for our dignity.

Then came the Glorietta tragedy. So distrustful have our people become of government that the initial thought of many was that the government had a hand in it, a convenient diversionary tactic gone wrong, with more lives lost and damaged than planned. It did not help that initial reports of C4 components surfaced, only to be drowned out completely in the days that followed. So deep-rooted is the skepticism that despite the reports of the PNP pointing to a gas leak, many people still believe otherwise.

Coming on the heels of all of these, like the an episode in a *telenovela* whose ending is still unknown, President Macapagal-Arroyo pardoned Erap in a manner that was strongly criticized even by her allies for its haste and timing.

True, the peso has improved, and investors are starting to take notice. Yet it has become more and more painful to remain a "thinking and feeling Filipino." Because of the pain, it is tempting to simply "tune out" and develop a defensive indifference to the intangibles that count as much, if not more, than money.

But I am grateful for the pain, especially the one brought about by the events of the last few months. Why? Because palpable around us now is a renewed sense of outrage where before there was none. Because more and more, we are hearing people who have straddled the fence say that they can no longer remain indifferent, that they must do something—anything! Because the crimes have started to hit close to home, and it has become clearer to even the apolitical and apathetic that the bells toll for them, too.

That the pardon and the subsequent crumbling of the artificial divide between Gloria Arroyo and Joseph Estrada came in the wake of the exposés about blatant corruption is something to be grateful for. Suddenly things are much clearer for all who are thirsting for true reforms. Now many of us can say that we are not for or against either one of them as persons. We are against the kind of politics they represent, a politics that lately has morphed into a monster unrecognizable from what it should be, an almost purely transactional politics, where personal survival takes precedence over everything, where the limits of decency are regularly crossed without blinking, where the cloaks of honor and integrity have been discarded in favor of vestments soiled by greed and arrogance as they worship in the altar of impunity.

These are the worst of times; these are also the best of times. It is a dark chapter in our history; it is also a time of epiphany. And one word seems to shine brightly in the consciousness of those who are experiencing this rebirth, for it represents one important value or virtue now lacking in almost all aspects of our collective lives. The word is "Dangal."

It is a Filipino term that cannot be translated into one English word. It is honor, integrity, dignity, self-respect, principle, even nobility, all rolled into one. And it must be brought back into our political life so that it can find its way back into all other aspects of our lives. Just as a fish starts to rot from its head, there too should reform start.

But for this to happen, we, the people, to whom our public officials are accountable, must be catalysts for change. We must come to terms with the need for it in our lives, then demand it from them. We must reject those who cannot or will not become the leaders we deserve, and embrace those who still hold this virtue within them. Perhaps then, a true and worthy opposition will emerge, one that truly represents the people's aspirations for positive change instead of more of the same old, tired, ineffective and self-serving type of politics we have endured for so long.

There are still many government leaders and members of the bureaucracy who embody *dangal* in the true sense of the word. They suffer along with all of us who are still capable of shame. There are also so many Filipinos out there who are but waiting for the right signal from the citizenry that the time is ripe for a new breed of leaders to emerge. But many good people are unable to thrive or shine, and are in danger of being suffocated by those who will stop at nothing for darkness to prevail. We owe it to these good men and women; we owe it to ourselves, to make a concerted effort to bring some good back into our political life.

The last national elections showed that we are not helpless in effecting change. We must put our minds and hearts into bringing *dangal* back into politics. The time is now. The possibilities are endless.

Dr. Minguita Padilla, an ophthalmologist, is president of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines and the Drug Abuse Research Foundation.

Sunrise

YOUNG BLOOD

Julliane Moira Samar Sy

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MARCH 2004

When I heard that my cousin was having a baby, my imagination took off to wonderland. You see, among us cousins, she was the first to have a baby. It seemed like we were so young just yesterday and before I knew it, I was going to become an aunt. At the age of 13, the idea was very strange and uncomfortable to me.

I looked at my cousin. She was smiling. She must be happy. But I was more excited. For the first time in my life, I was going to watch a live birth.

How could this happen? Both my parents are doctors, and they are friends with my cousin's doctor. This meant they would get to see the whole operation. Which meant, I could tag along and see the baby come out of my cousin!

Dressed like a doctor, with medical robe, hair cap and mask, I stepped into the operating room. It smelled funny inside. I sat on the floor and sent my cousin you-can-do-it mental messages.

My cousin was lying on a small bed. They gave her a couple of shots of anesthesia as I looked on, cringing at how big the syringes were. But we all knew the pain would be worth it later on.

There were six doctors: my aunt, my dad and mom, the obstetrician, the anesthesiologist and the pediatrician. Curiously, the doctors were actually talking and laughing while my cousin was nervously waiting. They talked about the day they were giving birth to their own babies. They compared cell phones and shared funny ring tones. The room was so noisy that I began to doubt if I was in the right room. It was the exact opposite of the hospital scenes in the movies where everyone is tense and observing silently. Those movies are miles away from the reality I witnessed.

It took them hours to finish. They had a hard time. At one point, they were considering doing a caesarean section. I heard them say it would be easier that way.

But I thought it was a crazy thing to say. The more appropriate adjective for slicing a stomach open is painful, not easy. Happily, after giving a final push on my cousin's stomach, the obstetrician shrieked that the baby was out.

The whole time I could feel the chills my cousin was experiencing. Her hands were cold and sweaty. She was shaking terribly. I asked myself if the baby was really worth all that pain.

My cell phone said 10:13 p.m. when the doctor finally raised the baby. I stared at her. Long and pale-skinned. She cried a little, just a soft yell lasting four seconds. They call it a cry, but who am I to disagree?

The pediatrician cleaned the baby. Everyone was smiling and saying, "The baby is beautiful!"

I left the operating room and went to sleep. It was already late when I woke up. The doctors were having dinner. And they were still having fun, laughing through their meal.

Unlike them, I was no longer feeling hyper. I was tired and cranky. But that was nothing compared to the physical pain my cousin endured. Still I'm sure nobody can beat the happiness she was feeling. Not even the doctors, with their continuous laughter.

Babies may be the cause of overpopulation, happy and satisfied parents, tired assistants and fulfilled observers like me. But nobody really knows the reason a baby is born. It's a mystery that unfolds as life goes on. But one thing is sure: Every baby in this world is born to add color to life. We too were babies once and now we are an unfolded mystery.

Sunset

FEBRUARY 2006

Maybe it was fate that I had just read "Kisa Gotami" a few minutes after receiving the news that God welcomed yet another angel named Samantha. "Kisa Gotami" is a very old Indian death story elucidating the Buddhist idea that since death is inevitable, any attempt to resist it is bound to end in failure or unhappiness.

When people die, other people grieve. And some grieve longer than others. Some see their own death in the death of others. Yet it should not be. With every birth received and enjoyed, death should also be accepted.

With enough faith, we could understand that God did not take her from us. Instead, He gave us the opportunity to love her and experience her presence. God wanted to take her because she would be happy with Him. And even though she was happy on earth, with all the love showered on her by everyone who had accepted her, it was still an inferior love compared to the love God can give her.

Funerals should not be a dry petal. They are like birthdays, a bouquet of fresh flowers. We should be thankful to God for giving us such a grand blessing. We were very much favored than others for having had the chance to be with her.

To Baby Sam, thank you for sharing yourself with us. Just like in birthdays, with bright balloons and glitters, you were a wonderful gift on our table of life. A gift that will be cherished forever.

The two very significant events in Samantha's life were intertwined by faith, love and destiny. My niece, whose birth I had witnessed, has passed away. How happy we all were to accept her into the family, but how sad we were to see her go. Life is like that. We welcome people in our lives, and then we have to let them go.

Samantha was diagnosed with leukemia a few months before she turned 2. She gave us a story to tell: of a baby summoned by God as an angel.

There is something that connects my two stories about Sam's birth and death: God gave us the strength to accept what He wanted for us and the hope for more beautiful things.

It's almost two years now since Sam left us after a short-lived but priceless presence. I feel nothing less than blessed by God that I went through that experience. It was great receiving an abundance of love and magic, sunrise and sunset, all within two years.

Julliane Moira Samar Sy, 16, is a scholar at the Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong. She was editor in chief of The Bicol Scholar, the official English publication of the Philippine Science High School—Bicol Region Campus.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Christmas message to officials

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

CHRISTMAS IS FAST APPROACHING. I wonder how many families will be able to celebrate the season with something enough on their tables. I wonder how many mothers and fathers, or elder sisters and brothers, will be able to take a leave from work abroad to be with their families for "noche buena."

Families celebrating Christmas together—this looks picture-perfect. But it will be true only for the lucky few in our society. I do not say that they're much more blessed. It's just that, in our society, there are those who have more than enough and there are those who have very little.

For those in government who had the stomach to, keep for themselves what should have been given to our people, may I remind them of the spirit and message of Christmas. Jesus came to this world so that His people would not perish. Jesus came to serve and not to be served.

And may I ask our public officials these questions: Why are you in that office? To see our people perish? To serve your own interests?

I can't bear anymore hearing about our leaders using public funds as bribes or for their and their families' enjoyment. Very disgusting.

In Jesus' time, criminals were nailed to the cross. I think they should be nailed to the cross for such travesty.

—ALPHA JANE BUTACA,
tubao3@lycos.com

Why are banks charging too much for ATM transactions?

ATM CARDHOLDERS MAY NOT KNOW that they are exorbitantly charged for cash withdrawals through the automatic teller machine (ATM).

Due to the series of holidays starting with the Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay elections last Oct. 29, 2007, there was a long line of depositors and GSIS pensioners waiting for their turn to make a withdrawal. The first commercial banks in Daet with ATMs I went to were either crowded, offline or under repair. However, at the DBP ATM, there were a few people.

I used my ATM card for my GSIS pension. I had to make three withdrawals because every withdrawal allowed only a maximum of P5,000.

I found out from the ATM receipts that I was charged P12 for every withdrawal—too much a burden for small pensioners. Can't the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas limit the maximum charge for all ATM transactions in all commercial banks to P5? Or P3 in a series of withdrawals?

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte

Sep Juico should be praised, supported

THE COLUMN WRITTEN BY RINA Jimenez-David ("Sex tempest in Quezon City," INQUIRER, 11/18/07), regarding a city ordinance sponsored by Councilor Joseph "Sep" Juico which has stirred a hornets nest in the Church, reminded me of an old Elvis Presley song "In the Ghetto," which also became controversial in the mid-'60s when social and racial unrest was prevalent in the United States.

The overpopulation problem is one of the major causes of poverty in this country and poverty in turn gives birth to other social ills such as crime. Juico's "immersion" in the urban poor in his community, "even spending a night with a family" made him see the misery those people experience daily in the lives. "Simply imagining huge rats crawling over my body as I lie asleep makes me shudder, but they no longer wake up," said Juico because they are used to it.

Those pregnant women he saw are signs of the continued rise in population. Those unborn babies are not giving their mothers any happiness because, based on their own admission, "they didn't want to have these many children."

Just like Elvis had sung: "*As the snow flies on a cold and gray Chicago morning a poor little baby child is born in the ghetto. And his mama cried coz if there's one thing she don't need is another hungry mouth to feed in the ghetto.*"

A new baby is the one thing they don't need in the squalid conditions they live in (our ghettoes). Yet some churchmen can't accept that these unwanted babies will grow up playing in the streets.

This is exactly the same cycle happening in our midst today; more unwanted pregnancies, mothers giving birth to babies they do not want to have, and children growing up in an environment polluted by the ills of society which are sure to make them hardened criminals and toughies.

The Juicos of this country should be supported and praised for their courage in bringing up this most pressing problem of our time.

—RAMON MAYUGA,
GeRMayuga@aol.com

Child development center corrects news

THIS IS ABOUT "PROJECT: NEW WAY OF learning" (INQUIRER, 9/10/07) and the request of my franchisor, Cambridge Children's Learning Development Holdings Inc. (CCLDHI) to write the INQUIRER to correct inaccuracies in the report.

I was interviewed because of the workshop "Engaging Children's Minds and Hearts: The Project Approach" that was then to be conducted by Dr. Sylvia Chard, a leading expert on Project Approach. That conference was spearheaded by Fortissimo Inc., an entity totally unrelated to CCLDHI.

CCLDHI is the franchisor of the Cambridge Child Development Centres (Cambridge), one of which, the one at Capitol Hills, Quezon City, I myself operate. The "Project Based Ecological Model, a Reggio-inspired curriculum with elements of the Project Approach" adopted by Cambridge is different from Doctor Chard's Project Approach.

This is not to blame the writer, however. The distinctions between the two approaches are indeed difficult to articulate. The Cambridge brochure, a copy of which the writer asked for toward the end of the interview, may have unfortunately misled her. The writer liberally quoted from the brochure, in the process eclipsing the subject of the interview. Also, the term "Project-Based Ecological Model" was not mentioned in the brochure, thus the confusion.

She even asked for Cambridge rates for future reference and I specifically told her she was not supposed to print them.

Lastly, there was, in the article, an erroneous enumeration of the branches.

—MYRA JOSE-JIAO,
Cambridge Child Development Centre,
1 Capitol Hills Drive,
Capitol Hills, Quezon City

GMA has lost moral ascendancy to govern

WE, THE GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS FROM different parts of the country, decry the recent bombing of the Batasan Pambansa which resulted in loss of lives and severe injury to many. This recent event added to the long list of suspicious events and scandalous deals and scams that have been blamed on the Arroyo administration.

Inspired and challenged by our mission to continue to be "Life-bearers with and for the Poor" and called to heed Micah 6:8 "to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God," we believe that the common good and wellbeing and security of the Filipino people should be a great concern of the national leadership. The fact is the majority of Filipinos are insecure and fearful in the midst of grinding poverty.

Who will deny that the Arroyo administration has lost its moral ascendancy to govern this country? We strongly demand that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo step down.

—SR. MAUREEN CATABIAN, RGS,
chair, W-JPIC Committee
of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
(Philippines), 1043 Aurora Blvd.,
1108 Quezon City

Pulido's impeachment complaint unpolished

AS ANY PRACTICING LAWYER WORTH HIS salt, lawyer Roel Pulido should have known that an impeachment case is basically a political exercise. He should have had the common sense to see that the complaint he initiated, alone and precipitately, had a snowball's chance in hell. Hasn't he learned anything from past impeachment proceedings?

If the previous complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo could be junked so easily despite the volumes of paperwork and evidence to support the charges, how in God's name could he possibly think his vacuous three-page complaint had a better chance? To put it simply in Filipino, *hindi pulido 'yung ginawa niya.*

Pulido dared anyone to file a better complaint and he will withdraw his forthwith. What kind of a lawyer makes that kind of an excuse?

Pulido could not have been that fatuous or stupid. The only plausible explanation for what he did is: he's been co-opted, period. Is it any wonder everyone is asking: Is he trying to give that other crackpot of a lawyer a run for his money?

—STEPHEN L. MONSANTO,
slmonsanto@yahoo.com.ph

One Golden Celebration

Visit Malaysia
Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood

MALAYSIA YEAR END SALE
1 DEC 2007 – 1 JAN 2008

It's a Girl Thing
A prelude to the Malaysia Year End Sale. Expect a fun-filled event with all things girly – clothes, shoes, accessories, pampering, the works!
23 – 25 Nov 2007
KL Convention Centre

A Journey Through Time
Embark on an exalted journey of unrivalled luxury and indulgence. Asia's largest watch and jewellery showcase.
3 – 12 Dec 2007
Starhill Gallery, Kuala Lumpur
www.ajourneythroughtime.com.my

Late Night Sale
Late night shopping madness every Saturday with additional discounts, fun events and lively entertainment for family and friends.
At selected shopping malls in Kuala Lumpur & Selangor

Supporting Programmes

Malaysia Year End Sale Contest
Just charge RM100 to your MasterCard during the Malaysia Year End Sale and stand to win RM50,000 to shop all over again.
Terms & conditions apply.

Participating Shopping Centres
- AEON Bukit Tinggi Shopping Centre, Klang
- AEON Tebrau City Shopping Centre, Johor
- JUSCO Queensbay Mall, Penang
- Kinta City Shopping Centre, Ipoh
- Mid Valley Megamall
- Pavilion Kuala Lumpur
- Sunway Pyramid
- 1 Utama Shopping Centre

"Light up with festive cheer as major shopping centres vie to outdo themselves in creating CHRISTMAS MAGIC right here in Malaysia!"

"Visitors to Malaysia will enjoy EXCLUSIVE TOURIST PRIVILEGES when shopping at Metrojaya and Parkson!"

"Call each other while in Malaysia for up to 30% CHEAPER with Maxis Local Direct Dial (LDD)! Roam with Maxis, Malaysia's largest mobile operator."

[illegible]
Book your holiday now!
[illegible]

YES YEAR END SALE

TOURISM MALAYSIA
HOME TO Malaysia Airlines AirAsia Firefly
The Official Card
PRESTIGE TELCO PARTNER maxis.
Visit Kedah 2008
Visit Terengganu 2008

Website: www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my
e-Portal: www.virtualmalaysia.com
Malaysia Truly Asia

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

P200-M GRANT. The new Amore Purpose Driven Community gets an initial grant of P200 million from the PLDT-SMART Foundation, one of the partners of the Operation Compassion International Inc.

JAYMEE GAMIL

New community rises for typhoon survivors

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Daraga, Albay

FOR THE OPERATION Compassion International Inc. (OCII), rebuilding communities in Daraga town in Albay means more than giving houses to survivors of last year's typhoons.

"We are here to rebuild communities not only physically, but also spiritually, emotionally, socially and in all aspects of human living," said Cielito Habito, chair of the OCII's Amore Purpose Driven Community, during the groundbreaking rite of the permanent housing project in Daraga on Sept. 29.

The P17-million project is part of a bigger program to "empower disaster survivors to bring about their own progress, and to foster the birth of a new community." Dong Cucio, project manager, said.

Construction began in October. A total of 218 two-story duplex-type houses made of wood and concrete will replace the tents and plywood shelters at the 2.1-hectare "transit shelter" in Barangay Anislag, transforming the place into the Amore Purpose-Driven Community.

Each house costs P80,000 and has a floor area of 40 square meters. Beneficiaries will put in 300 hours of "sweat equity" in the construction of the houses.

For eight months, the shelter served as sanctuary for more than 170 families from Bañag and Tagas villages, who were displaced by floods and mudslides brought by consecutive typhoons in December 2006.

Cucio said the OCII would also put up an activity center, conduct "capacity-building," livelihood and school development programs, and facilitate community organization and self-maintenance.

An Amore Interim People's Association has already been formed.

"We will also be teaching them how to carry out small-scale farming of vegetables so that they will have a sustainable food supply," volunteer Andrea Chavez, 37, said.

"When the project is done, it will be just like a new barangay," she said.

Operation Compassion is a multisectoral nongovernment organization set up in 2004 to help rehabilitate disaster-stricken communities nationwide.

The birth of an Amore community has attracted many local and national government offices and NGOs, particularly the Purpose Driven Ministries (from which the project is named), and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.-Smart Foundation, which donated P200 million as initial budget.

"The local government is responsible for site development. The United Architects of the Philippines designs the infrastructures. The NGO World Wildlife Foundation is also planning a food-for-work program," Chavez said.

Habito tagged the holistic and constant teamwork as acting in "the spirit of *bayanihan.*"

Gov. Joey Salceda said 10,076 displaced families still needed housing, but gave assurance that they too, would soon be provided shelter.

"Operation Compassion is not here because they pity us and look down on us. They are here as our allies and because they see us as equals," he said in Bicol.

Halfway houses at ports protect sex trade victims

By Gerald Gene R. Querubin
Batangas City

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD "ANA" (NOT HER REAL NAME) talks and dresses the way girls her age do. She wears trendy clothes imitated from models she sees in magazines and television shows. She also loves fun and singing.

Beneath her smiles and bubbly personality, however, is a child under pain.

A female recruiter, who promised Ana a job as a storekeeper in Cavite, flew her from her home province of Bukidnon to Manila in January 2006. From there, she was brought to Cavite and forced to work as a guest relations officer (GRO) in a bar and, eventually, as a prostitute.

With three other girls—all minors—Ana was made to work from 4 p.m. till past midnight. If the girls refused to cooperate, "Steve," a nephew of the bar owner, would beat them or douse them with water.

Ana's first customers were Coast Guard members who forced her to have sex with them for a fee.

She took the experience with a grain of salt. "It's OK. I was raped by my father when I was 7 years old," Ana said, further revealing a darker part of her life.

For 10 months, Ana's life had been controlled by the bar owners, offering her like a merchandise to patrons.

Stereotype

A store owner near the bars where she worked saw her plight and asked her to work in the store.

With her new job, Ana tried to erase the stigma of her past, but her immediate community had already downcast her as a prostitute.

Every time she went to the market wearing shorts or revealing clothes, children would call her a "*phagerper*" or a prostitute, she said.

When the bars were raided by police, Ana was among those rounded up. At that time, she was tending the store near the bars.

When the officers found that she was a minor, police turned her over to the local social welfare office, which, in turn, brought her to the Visayan Forum Foundation Inc. (VF), a nongovernment organization working for the welfare of domestic workers and victims of sexual trade.

The VF operates halfway houses in strategic ports across the country, like the Manila International Airport, North Harbor in Manila, Batangas International Port, Port of Matnog in Sorsogon, and Sasa Port in Davao. These are among the first crisis centers ever built in ports in Asia.

Many of the victims are usually rescued in the ports.

Shelters

Locally known as the Bahay Silungan sa Daungan (BSSD), the centers house prostituted women and children who were found by authorities and those who ran away from their employers. They offer free food and temporary accommodation for up to six months while the victims await their return to their families.

Most of the victims have been referred by the VF's port partners.

The foundation's social workers are trained to complement the investigation to build legal cases against suspected traffickers. They counsel victims to make informed decisions, to avoid falling into exploitative labor arrangement and prostitution, and explore the possibility of pursuing legal action.

With the help of the VF and the government's Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Iacat), Ana filed a case against her recruiter and the bar owners who forced her to work as prostitute.

The campaign against human trafficking received a big boost when Republic Act No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act was enacted in 2003. Subsequently, the Iacat, spearheaded by the Department of Justice, was formed to help prosecute offenders.

Since the law was passed, however, government lawyers have managed to win only 10 cases against those accused of human trafficking, according to Senior State Prosecutor Deanna Perez, head of the Iacat secretariat.

"The main problem is that witnesses back out," Perez said.

Victims refuse to cooperate for fear of reprisal. Even social workers and volunteers have experienced being harassed by recruiters, she said.

With regard to Ana's case, a VF social worker said that after two hearings, the owners of one of the bars had asked them to drop the case.

Transient

Lorena Limpiada, house parent at the BSSD at the Batangas port, said transients at the halfway house are taught housekeeping skills, like preparing food, cross-stitching and using computers. They also play and watch television shows.

At times, Limpiada said, Ana would have emotional outbursts and resort to singing or smoking to ward off depression. Victims like her must be understood properly because of the trauma they went through, and they have yet to learn to trust, she said.

While waiting for her case to be resolved, Ana joined the VF's Kasambahay Program, which promotes her right to protection from abuse and exploitation, access to education, and to participation in actions affecting her.

As a beneficiary, she was enrolled as a first year student at the Batangas National High School's night classes. The VF pays for her tuition and miscellaneous fees, and gives her regular allowance.

Ana does not intend to go back to her family just yet. "I will only go back home if I have already achieved my dream," she said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is a product of a training workshop on human trafficking sponsored by the Center for Community Journalism and Development, which was held recently in Batangas City.

Restaurant-gallery revives stage for Bicol artists

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Legazpi City

THAT PROPHETS ARE HONORED EXCEPT IN their hometown may prove true for most Bicol-based visual artists, who tend to be more renowned in Metro Manila and abroad rather than in their native region.

But art aficionados Mateo Gojol, 31, George Vibar, 28, and Frank Stoll, 60, seek to finally reconcile this long-standing paradox.

Hoping to establish an immediate medium and market for the local art industry, they opened the Chateau Nouveau—a restaurant, café and art gallery—in Legazpi City in February.

"We have a lot of artist friends and we wanted to provide for them a stage here because at the moment, they always have to go to Manila to exhibit. There are few galleries in Albay," said Stoll.

Art circulation

Gojol, Vibar and Stoll are well-integrated in the local art circle.

Gojol, who hails from Sorsogon, is the former owner of the defunct Our Place artist's bar in the Old Albay District. There, he was able to familiarize himself with the art scene, as well as his two current business partners: homegrown Vibar, a conceptual artist, and Swiss-borne Stoll, an art collector currently residing in Bicol.

"I have always been an art enthusiast, but more as an entrepreneur and collector. I have always been interested in supporting artists," Gojol said.

The Our Place crowd migrated to a restaurant-art gallery called Peninsulares when it opened last year. It was then owned by a local art patron with whom Gojol was acquainted.

The Peninsulares would prove to be Chateau Nouveau's predecessor. When it closed down after a year, Gojol decided to step up and take the helm. He was joined by Vibar, now the gallery curator and in-house artist, and Stoll, now the resident restaurant and art consultant.

Inspired by sights gleaned from his travels to Europe, Gojol renamed the place Chateau Nouveau, French for "New Castle."

Although not as grand as its namesake, Chateau Nouveau exudes a similar elegance, nestled in a wooden 20th-century, Spanish-style single-story house with a veranda leading to the entrance.

However, the interiors take on a more modern look, with the counter, tables and chairs resembling abstract paintings, spattered and streaked in vivid multicolor, courtesy of Vibar.

Exhibited paintings line the walls, but most are showcased in a spotlighted room which serves as the gallery proper.

CHATEAU NOUVEAU—a restaurant, café and art gallery in Legazpi City

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

Another room is a mini-library for the more literary-minded patrons. Books can be borrowed through a membership system, Vibar said.

A small garden furnished with huts awaits customers who prefer open air surroundings.

World-class

The most recent exhibit, "Fourum," showcased paintings and sculptures from Bicol-based artists Johnny Magdasoc, Roger Monasterial, Archie Perez and newcomer Ramon Paran Sr. It was held to celebrate the Legazpi Port Area fiesta last month.

It was a first for 60-year-old Paran, a confessed "late bloomer" painter from neighboring Daraga town. According to him, it takes talent, exposure and luck for an artist to succeed.

"We have world-class artists here in Bicol, they just don't have much opportunities to display their talent. It's good that we now have more galleries here to cover that need, especially for beginners like me," he said.

Monasterial, 51, a native of Camalig town, was an easy standout with his trademark "santigwar" painting style. "Santigwar" is an occult healing practice in which candles are lit under ceramic plates so that images from the resulting soot could be interpreted, particularly to divine the influence of paranormal beings.

"I'm pleased to see that there is a growing appreciation for artists and a growing venue for us," Monasterial said. He noted, however, that greater enthusiasm for the arts was needed among the locals because the interest and motivation were currently concentrated on a minority.

Like Paran, he maintained that the region did not lack artistic talent.

Monasterial, Magdasoc, Perez and Vibar are all veteran members of the Center for Bikol Arts Foundation Inc. (Cebika), a 7-year-old regional coalition of visual artists, writers and performers. Cebika has held exhibits in established galleries in Metro Manila, such as the Alliance Française de Manille in Makati City.

Most of the Chateau Nouveau exhibits have showcased Cebika artists, Vibar said.

Alternative

Chateau Nouveau has held five exhibits so far, which are ideally renewed every two weeks, said Gojol.

Aside from "Fourum," past exhibits showcased the works of Vibar himself, fellow Cebika veteran Dante Perez, painter Ronald Bajoro, and a group of young artists from Sorsogon called the Artists for the Environment (ArtE).

Although the gallery is open to all visual mediums and art styles, those that are abstract and surreal tend to dominate the space. This provides an alternative to the more popular fare seen in mall galleries and government-run exhibits which highlight realism and figurative art.

"Most of the pieces we have exhibited lean toward contemporary and conceptual art. We want to appeal to young, progressive and aggressive artists and art enthusiasts," Gojol said.

Poor reception

Gojol is up-front that the gallery had had poor reception among the locals so far. He is often left to market the paintings to international and Manila-based clientele during his travels.

"Some paintings I've brought to Singapore and Europe, and 14 of them have already been sold," he said.

Following standard gallery rates in the Metro, Chateau Nouveau gets a 40-percent commission for every sold painting.

Gojol hopes that displaying the paintings in a public setting will inculcate consciousness for the arts among the local customers.

"I'm thankful that the restaurant attracts Class B patrons. That way, they can enjoy the art while eating and perhaps decide to invest in them," he said.

"We want to inspire more people, particularly the younger generations, to pursue the arts and invest in the art industry," Stoll said. It is for this purpose that they are currently planning auctions for their private art collections, summer workshops for children, and a website to publicize future exhibits to a global audience.

NTC-M
NMFPI
UC
university of cebu
300
scholarships available!

The Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. and the University of Cebu - Lapulapu and Mandaue campus have entered into an exclusive partnership to train cadets to become high quality ship officers for the future.

Take up Nautical or Marine Engineering at UC-LM under the Norwegian Shipowners Association Philippines Cadet Project and enjoy full-free scholarships (tuition, miscellaneous and all school fees), free board and lodging and free books. You will also get a chance to travel worldwide during apprenticeship with a possible allowance of $450 a month and in the future, be hired on board Norwegian flagged or controlled vessels as an officer.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Original & certified true copy of high school card with at least 85% general average**
- **Original copy & photocopy of Birth Certificate**
- **Applicants must be 16-22 yrs. old as of June 2008**
- **Height must be at least 5'3" (160 cm) for male and 5' (153 cm) for female**
- **1 pc. 2x2 colored picture attached to the application form**

Requirements must be submitted prior to the exam
Application forms are available at the UC-LM NSA Office

EXAMINATION SCHEDULES

JANUARY - APRIL 2008. 8:00 am-12 nn, 1:00 - 5:00 pm
University of Cebu-LM NSA Office

MAY 15-20, 2008. Final Screening
Qualified applicants will undergo (computer-based exam, physical fitness exam and interview) at the UC-LM NSA Office.

for inquiries, visit or call :

University of Cebu-LM NSA Office
A.C. Cortes Ave, Mandaue City

☎ **(032) 344-7871**
Ms. Judith Almonte

(032) 345-6666 loc. 233/202
Dr. Leonilo Oliva

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Gov won't enter plea in graft trial

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ASSERTING HER INNOCENCE, WESTERN Samar Gov. Milagrosa Tee Tan refused to enter any plea on her arraignment yesterday at the Sandiganbayan for the alleged anomalous purchase of some P16 million worth of medicines and other goods in 2001 and 2002.

This prompted the antigraft court's Fourth Division, where she is facing seven graft charges for the procurements supposedly done without public bidding, to enter a "not guilty" plea on her behalf.

The graft cases, after being challenged by Tan for over a year, have finally been set by Justice Gregory Ong, chair of the Fourth Division for pre-trial on Jan. 25, 2008.

Brief encounter

Clad in a printed red blouse and denim pants, Tan appeared in court yesterday morning with her counsel Anacleto Diaz and daughter, Sharee Ann, who won a seat in the House of Representatives in the May elections.

"*Wala naman kaming kasalanan* (We are innocent)," Tan told the INQUIRER after the arraignment that did not last more than 15 minutes, explaining why she refused to enter a plea.

Facing the charges with her were six other provincial officials—Rolando Montejo, provincial administrative officer; Damiano Conde, provincial treasurer; Romeo Reales, provincial accountant; Maximo Sison, provincial budget officer; Aurelio Bardaje Jr., general services officer; Numeriano Legaspi, GSO record officer and inspector.

They had been arraigned on Nov. 6.

Electric fans

Tan and the officials were sued before the Ombudsman by the Isog Han Samar Movement based in Catbalogan for the anomalous purchases of goods made from December 2001 to December 2002, or during Tan's first term.

Tan is now on her final term after winning the local elections last May.

Being questioned were the 176 electric fans worth P244,640 purchased from businessman Reynaldo Yabut's store, from Nov. 13-20, 2002; 1,000 electric fans worth P1.39 million, also from Yabut's outlet, from Dec. 9 to 20, 2002; P3.680 million worth of grocery items from Wilmar's Mini Mart in Tacloban City, from Dec. 12, 2001 to Feb. 7, 2002.

P1.689 million worth of assorted medicines from Medic-Aid Distributors Inc., from Dec. 14, 2001 to Jan. 15, 2002; more assorted medicines worth P2.258 million from Rilem Pharma in Pasay City, from Dec. 14, 2001 to Jan. 5, 2002.

Wrong typhoon

The government officials also made three more separate purchases of assorted goods amounting to P6.93 million from December 2001 to March 2002, which they had earlier described as an "emergency purchase" for the victims of Typhoon "Kidang" in December 2001 to justify the transaction without public bidding.

But a Commission on Audit report later validated that the funds used have been allotted for victims of an earlier typhoon, "Nanang," which hit the province in November 2001.

Farmers assail DA subsidy to BT corn

DAVAO CITY—ORGANIC FARMERS in Mindanao have protested the Department of Agriculture's policy of providing financial support to those who will plant varieties of genetically-engineered corn or *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) corn.

Francis Morales, of the Upliftment of the Moral, Economic, Technological, Socio-spiritual Aspirations of Persons or Metsa Foundation, said the government subsidy to BT corn farmers benefits agricultural companies, which have high stakes in the BT corn business.

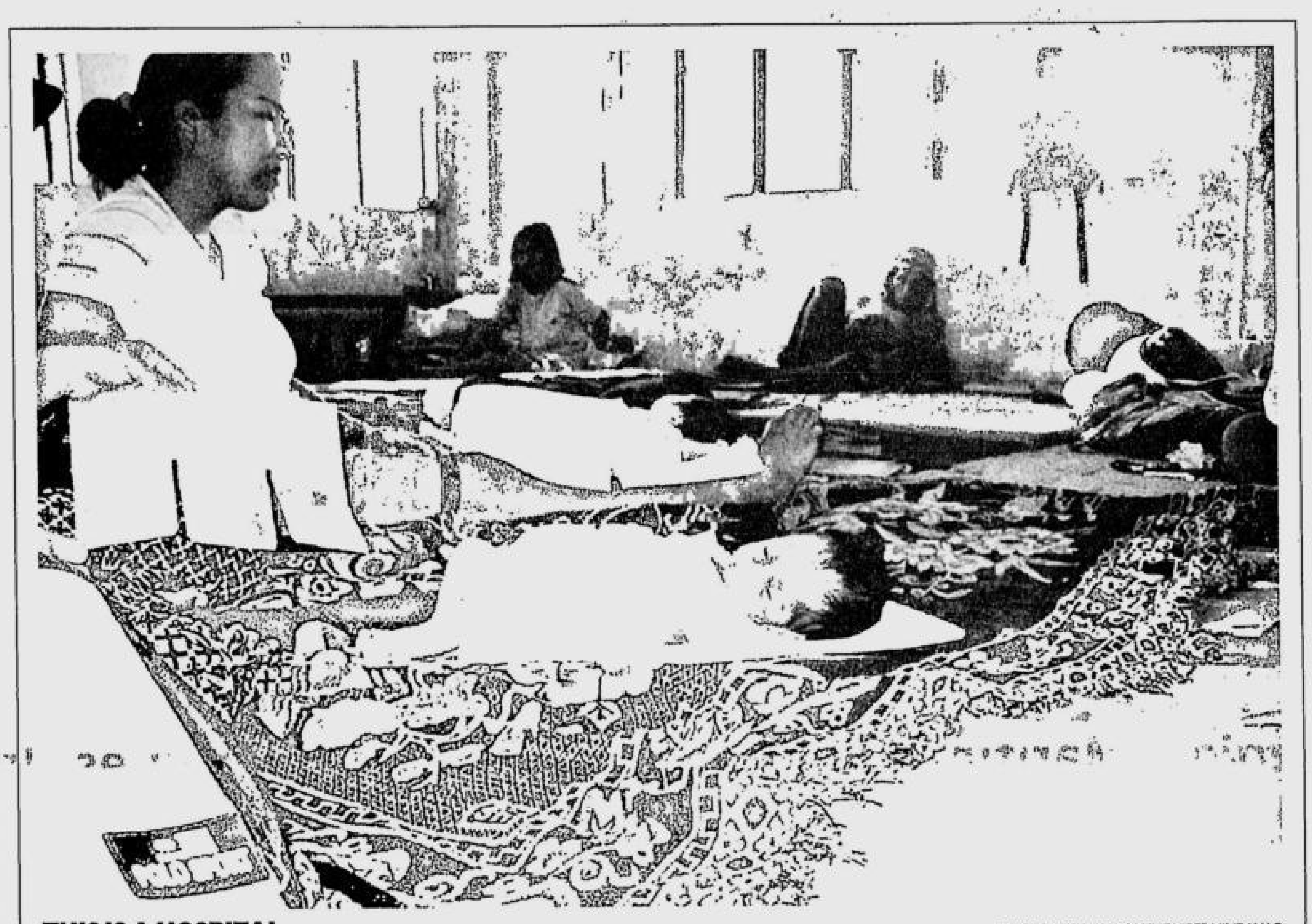
"Apparently, the agriculture department is again serving as sales agent of the companies producing BT corn varieties like Monsanto and Syngenta," he said.

Morales said by pledging to extend financial help to BT corn farmers, the DA is helping agricultural companies solve their marketing problem.

"Now we see this agency actually linking the BT corn producers and their target market. To whose convenience? Of course to the convenience and benefit of the companies," Morales said.

The DA in Central Mindanao recently announced that the subsidy would be P1,200 per hectare.

It said the government was hoping that 5,000 to 10,000 hectares of land would be planted to BT corn in the region alone. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*



THIS IS A HOSPITAL
GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/INQUIRER MINDANAO
What looks like an abandoned warehouse is actually a room at the Bukidnon Provincial Annex Hospital in Maramag, Bukidnon, where babies awaiting checkup and medical attention lie on rugs and cartons. It's a scene common in government hospitals elsewhere.

BSP orders bankrupt Pangasinan bank closed

URDANETA CITY—THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has ordered the closure of the Rural Bank of Sta. Barbara Pangasinan Inc. and placed it under receivership with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. as the receiver.

In a letter to Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr., Imelda Singzon, PDIC executive vice president of PDIC Division II, said the BSP Monetary Board ordered the closure on Nov. 16 in a resolution.

The bank has six branches, one each in this city and in the towns of Mangaldan, Tayug, Sta. Maria, Asingan and Calasiao.

Singzon asked local officials to help disseminate information to depositors.

While the depositors will not be able to withdraw their entire deposits but only the amount covered by insurance, "they are glad about BSP's decision to close the bank," Perez said.

"They cannot collect the entire deposit, but there is no alternative and this is better than getting nothing at all," he said.

Perez helped depositors follow up their complaints against the Sta. Barbara bank with the BSP.

Depositors welcomed the BSP decision. "At least we can get back some of our money," said Lourdes Gutierrez, a depositor.

Gutierrez was one of those who daily trooped to the bank to try to withdraw her deposit for more than four months when news circulated that the bank was already bankrupt.

The bank's management refused almost all withdrawals, allowing only minimal amounts like a few hundred pesos, she said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

CBCP head says rural poverty worsening

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE SUFFERING of the rural poor has worsened in the past decades as more people suffer from poverty, joblessness and lack of education, said Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

Lagdameo said these problems have persisted and even worsened despite the passing of laws, such as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law and those on indigenous peoples.

He said the main problems, including lack of housing, education and access to health services, have worsened.

"It is shocking to hear of rural folk reaching only up to Grade IV because schools there do not offer higher grades," Lagdameo told the INQUIRER on Monday during the Regional Rural Congress of the Archdiocese of Jaro.

Nursing solution

The congress, which gathered around 200 persons representing small farmers, farm workers, fishermen, rural women, rural youth, indigenous peoples and basic ecclesiastical communities, served as preparation for the Second National Rural Congress that the CBCP will hold on the second quarter of next year.

Lagdameo said it was also "shocking" to hear of parents who are forcing their children to take up nursing so that they could go abroad even if their children have no interest in the course.

"We also hear of many villages without doctors and nurses and health centers that do not have medicines or ones with expired drugs," he added.

Migration

Lagdameo said poverty and lack of opportunities, especially in the countryside, are pushing many to migrate to the cities or abroad.

The participants in the regional congress lamented the failure of government to address these persistent problems and alleviate their situation.

Indigenous peoples' communities have been driven from their lands because they have no Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT).

They also lamented threats they receive from government soldiers during counterinsurgency operations.

Farmers and farm workers cited the lack of farm-to-market roads and markets for their products while fishermen said they have been suffering from declining catch.

The participants pushed for greater representation in Congress and a more active campaign against graft and corruption to ensure that the allocation for infrastructure projects would not be misused.

Quarry income tagged lone Panlilio achievement

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio has done nothing else since July except increase quarry collections, Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao said here on Wednesday.

"Aside from quarry collections, he has no other accomplishments. Not a single infrastructure project has been bid out. Not a single medicine or medical supplies have been bid out," Guiao said in the forum of the Kapampangan in Media Inc.

The "slow delivery of services" was what Board Member Cesar Magat, chair of the Association of Barangay Captains, criticized in the forum.

Budget OK

Guiao lamented that these, including the removal of grants and subsidies for board members, happened although the provincial board had approved the projects of the Provincial Development Council (PDC), which Panlilio heads, and the latter's request for supplemental budget.

According to Guiao, the mayors have not received the P3 million that the governor promised to each of them from out of the P136-million PDC fund.

"We are in a mess," Guiao said of what he thought was the state of the provincial capitol.

Sought for comment in a phone interview from the Clark Freeport where he joined Vice President Noli de Castro for the launch of a low-cost housing program, Panlilio said: "I think the vice governor is wrong in his assessment. But I will not take that against him. I think he wants us to render more services."

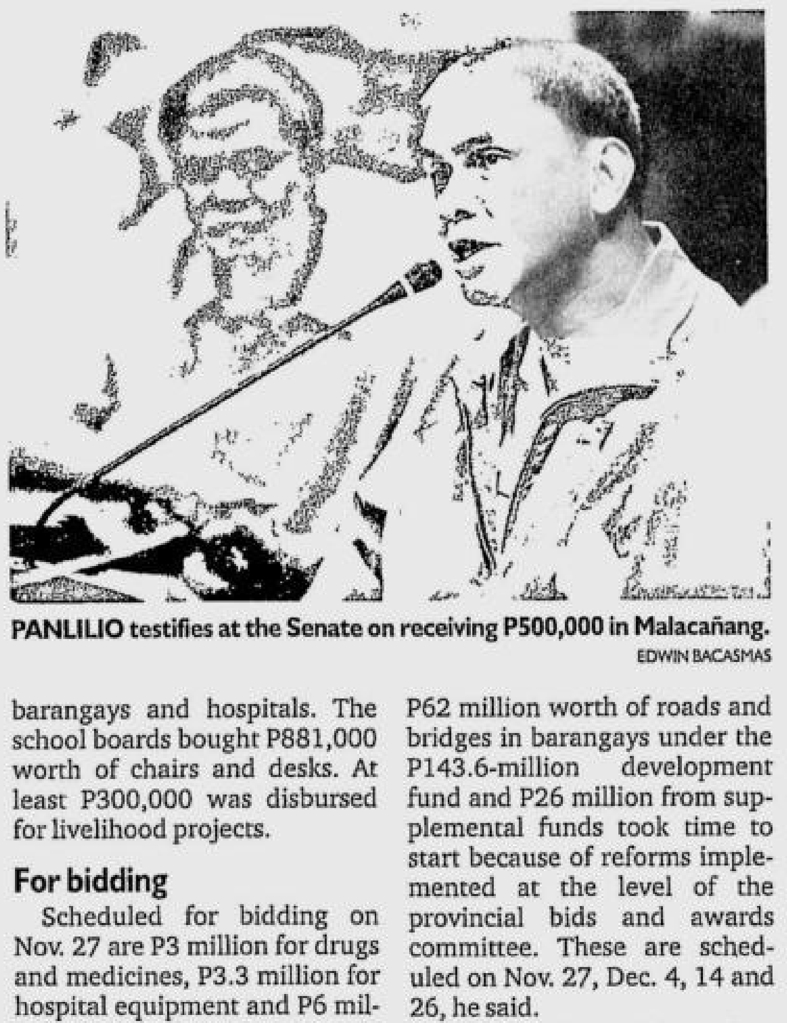
War on graft

Panlilio, a Catholic priest who won on a platform of moral crusade and good governance, admitted taking some time to reform the system and protect it from graft and corruption.

As of Nov. 20, Panlilio said quarry collections since June 29 had totaled nearly P97 million, which was P10 million short of the collection record of the Natural Resources Development Corp. for 2001.

The provincial government bought P4.9 million worth of drugs and medicines and P521,000 worth of medical equipment.

It gave out P2 million in aid to indigents. It spent P2.3 million on construction materials for the repair of schools, barangays and hospitals. The school boards bought P881,000 worth of chairs and desks. At least P300,000 was disbursed for livelihood projects.



PANLILIO testifies at the Senate on receiving P500,000 in Malacañang.
EDWIN BACASMAS

For bidding

Scheduled for bidding on Nov. 27 are P3 million for drugs and medicines, P3.3 million for hospital equipment and P6 million for the construction of classrooms.

Panlilio said the bidding for P62 million worth of roads and bridges in barangays under the P143.6-million development fund and P26 million from supplemental funds took time to start because of reforms implemented at the level of the provincial bids and awards committee. These are scheduled on Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 14 and 26, he said.

"We have formed three clusters within the PBAC. One is for hospitals, the second for civil works and the third for goods and consumables to enable the members to exercise their expertise. We have also required program of works for each project. We have put in place the policies of transparency and accountability," he said.

Reforming the system

"It takes time to reform the system," he added.

As for the non-giving of P3 million, which Guiao said caused "distrust" among the mayors, Panlilio said: "I cannot give those in cash because by law, it is the governor who is accountable for that money."

"While that money is intended for provincial roads and bridges, I agreed to use it for barangay projects of the mayors. The province is implementing those projects, which are being coordinated with the mayors," he said.

He said he has not removed the grants and subsidies of board members. He said he has requisition slips for P9 million worth of cement, hand pumps and pipes that the board members have requested. These, he said, needed to be bid out also. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

₱19-M car plan for Baguio execs under fire

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY council has been dodging criticisms for more than a week now over a government plan to spend P19.6 million of taxpayers' money to buy cars for each councilor and the city mayor before the year ends.

Public sentiment turned against the city officials when local TV and radio commentaries played up reports that the councilors would own these vehicles at the end of their terms, using a P15-million car plan proposed in an executive-legislative session held at the Clark Freeport in Pampanga.

Clark rendezvous

The councilors met with Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. in Clark in July to sort out next year's proposed P800-million budget.

City employees said this was the first time the council had legislated a budget plan so it could buy vehicles for councilors.

Romeo Concio, chief of the city's General Services Office (GSO), said his office is not processing any purchase order for vehicles because a request of this volume requires the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

Government regulations allow public officials to buy vehicles that cost below P600,000, he said.

P3-M car

A DBM approval is required for unusual government purchases, according to a member of the city finance committee.

The member asked not to be identified in the report to avoid irking the council.

"The city government had to request for an exemption when a city official once bought a P3-million car," the member said.

"DBM already turned down the request of another local government to buy vehicles because it found the program ostentatious."

Councilor Richard Cariño, in an interview aired over local radio and TV on Tuesday, said the city government is buying each councilor a service vehicle using a P40-million surplus from this year's budget.

Big city

He said the councilors need vehicles to ferry them around the city.

"This is a very large city... [which measures] 49 square kilometers. When we campaigned [during the May 14 elections], we were not able to visit all [villages of] the city," he said.

But Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas opposed the plan, saying the funds are better spent for five new dump trucks that the city needed.

Officials of the Baguio police also complained that the funds should be realigned instead to buy them new vehicles.

A councilor, who is privy to the Clark meeting, said the car plan was the product of a "horse trading agreement."

The councilor sought anonymity because of a gag order.

The source said Bautista approved the car plan in July provided that the council passed a budget for teachers' instructional materials worth P18 million and a P12-million pay parking building.

Allies of the mayor have distanced themselves from the car plan.

HOLIDAY COLORS
ELMER KRISTIAN DAUIGOY/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON
It's beginning to look a lot like Baguio residents are in the thick of preparations for the coming of the holidays as they make Christmas decorations for a popular shopping mall chain in the city.

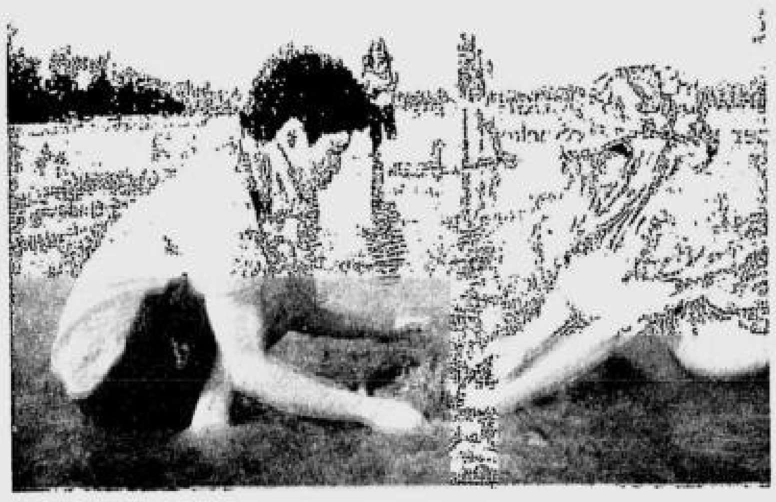
MARINE ECOSYSTEM'S LAST FRONTIER

Seagrass draws attention in experts' meet

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BOLINAO, PANGAsinan—Seagrass, the "last frontier" of the marine ecosystems, got the attention it deserved during a two-week, seven-country regional training course on management models and strategies for coral reef and seagrass ecosystems conducted here by the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI).

Dr. Miguel Fortes, a marine scientist and professor of marine science at the UPMSI, said that of the marine habitats, corals are the most popular, mangroves the most disturbed and seagrass beds the least studied.



SCIENTISTS examine seagrass beds in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, to check the effects of an oil spill that devastated the town.
MA. DIOSA LABISTE/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Vanishing corals

"The mangrove forests are almost decimated and coral cover is down to less than 5 percent. We should protect the seagrass beds because they are the last frontier of the ecosystems," he said.

The training course, attended by participants who are involved in coral and seagrass management in their countries, was anchored on the principle that "coral reefs and seagrass ecosystems are contiguous, interconnected structurally and functionally."

The course was in line with objectives of the United Nations Environment Program/Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GEF) South China Sea Project.

'Mangrove forests are almost decimated and coral cover is down to less than 5 percent...'

Chain reaction

Participants came from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Fortes said in the past, studies on the three marine ecosystems were done separately but "evidence shows the connection between them, that if you destroy mangroves, you destroy corals, and you destroy seagrass beds."

Except the Philippines, the other countries shared common problems like the lack of good assessment of seagrass beds, including the factors that destroy them.

The Philippines has also the most seagrass species, "but only maybe because more studies have been conducted here," Fortes said.

Bolinao trip

The participants were brought to an exposure trip to the flat reefs of Cape Bolinao where coral reefs abound and where the largest concentration of seagrass beds in the country (22,500 square kilometers, 10 species) is found.

Fortes said seagrass beds and coral reefs should be considered as a macro-system of the tropical world that needs an integrated approach for management and protection. But seagrass beds have not been given much attention because "they are grass and not as attractive as the colorful corals," he said.

"But they are as useful as corals," said Fortes, who has been studying seagrass for 20 years.

CO₂ eaters

Being plants, seagrass beds mitigate global warming and account for 12 percent uptake of global carbon dioxide, he said.

As plants, they also provide oxygen to waters, trap and cycle nutrients, stabilize sediments and improve water transparency and quality.

They also reduce the strength of waves, thus protecting the shorelines, provide food and habitat for microbes and other flora and fauna, and interact with coral reefs and mangroves.

"Seagrass beds are eco tomes (transition zones) between mangroves and corals. They trap silts from mangroves so the silt will not reach the corals which are very sensitive to siltation," he said.

Fish friends

Some fish need both seagrass meadows and coral reefs to thrive, Fortes said. He gave as an example the rabbit fish which residents of this town make into *padas* (bagoong) when in juvenile stage, and into *danggit* (sun dried) when in adult stage.

"Some species of rabbit fish spawn in sea bed about 12 kilometers from shore. The young fish are herbivores and graze at seagrass beds but when they are sexually mature, they stay at coral reefs," he said. Other species of rabbit fish stay at mangrove areas.

But the seagrass, though hardy, is also affected by environmental degradation, Fortes said.

NEW LOWER
Year-round Fares

SEAT SALE

₱1
Manila to Laoag
Cebu to Bacolod
Sale & Travel Period: Ongoing until February 29, 2008
Promo is non-refundable.

INTERNATIONAL

₱999
Guangzhou
Taipei*
Xiamen

₱1,499
Bangkok
Hong Kong*
Kuala Lumpur
Macau

₱1,999
Jakarta
Shanghai
Singapore*

All direct flights to/ from Manila
*Also with direct flights to/ from Cebu or Davao

DOMESTIC

₱98
Cebu to Iloilo
Manila to Legaspi

₱288
Cebu to Butuan NEW!
Cebu to Cagayan de Oro • Clark • Davao • Kalibo
Puerto Princesa • Zamboanga
Davao to Iloilo NEW!
Davao to Cebu or Zamboanga
Manila to Bacolod • Cebu • Dumaguete • Iloilo
Kalibo • Puerto Princesa • Roxas • Tacloban • Tagbilaran

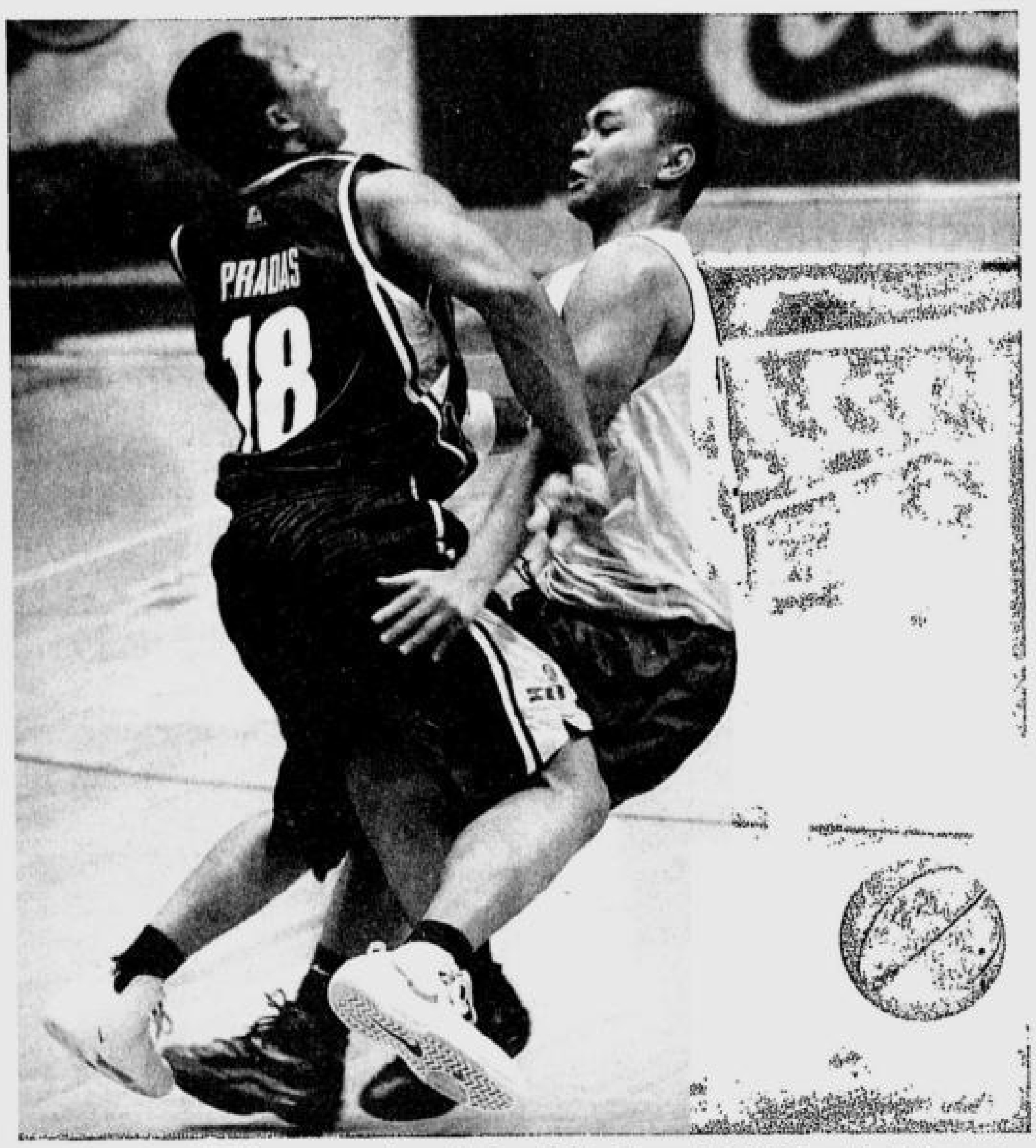
₱688
Manila to Boracay (Caticlan) NEW!
Cebu to Boracay (Caticlan) NEW!
Manila to Butuan • Cagayan de Oro • Cotabato
Davao • Dipolog • General Santos • Zamboanga

CEBU PACIFIC IS THE NO. 1 DOMESTIC AIRLINE!
MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS • MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS • MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES • NEWEST PLANES
MOST DOMESTIC PASSENGERS FLOWN • LOWEST YEAR-ROUND FARES

Domestic fuel and insurance surcharges range from PHP 650 to PHP 1,350.
International fuel and insurance surcharges range from USD 30 to USD 44.
CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM
Call (02) 70-20-888 or visit the travel agent nearest you.

CEBU PACIFIC
It's time everyone flies.

STI, Ateneo gain Champs semis



MARK Pradas of JRU loses possession as he barrels into Ateneo's Eric Salamat in their game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Olympians shock Tams; Eagles defuse Bombers

GAMES MONDAY (The Arena)
2 p.m.—UV vs STI
4 p.m.—UST vs Ateneo

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ONE WAS PRETTY MUCH EXPECTED, THE other absolutely a shocker.

STI and Ateneo—schools seldom mentioned in the same sentence especially with regard to basketball—fashioned out contrasting triumphs yesterday to grab the last two semifinal berths in the Fil-Oil Flying V National Collegiate Champions League at The Arena.

The STI Olympians, the reigning National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities champions, downed the more famous Far Eastern University Tamaraws, 77-72, to take their place among the best collegiate teams in the land.

Later in the day, UAAP heavyweight Ateneo slammed NCAA's Jose Rizal University, 81-71, behind the torrid outside shooting of stalwarts Chris Tiu and Nonoy Baclao.

STI advanced against University of Visayas, while Ateneo will take on University of Santo Tomas on Monday in no-tomorrow semifinal matches.

Tiu, on loan to the national team preparing for the Southeast Asian Games, fired 16 points, including 10 in the fourth quarter to help the Eagles seal the victory.

"It's nice to see Chris making those big shots," said Ateneo coach Norman Black."

Mark Balneg scored five points in the homestretch, including a three-pointer that proved to be the telling blow for the Olympians.

The scores:

First Game

STI 77—Mabayo 12, Balneg 12, Flor 11, Micutuan 10, Cabangon 8, Porto 7, Tiongco 6, Mendoza 5, Juan 4, Tolentino 2.

FEU 72—Baracael 15, Barroca 10, Ramos 10, Adolfo 10, Alisbo 7, Fernandez 7, Cawaling 7, Cervantez 5, Abarring 1, Cabagnot 0, Knuttel 0.

Quarters: 20-14, 35-35, 51-51, 77-72.

Second Game

ATENEO 81—Arao 18, Tiu 16, Barrascoso 12, Baclao 11, Baldos 7, Long 6, Reyes 4, Escueta 3, Al-Hussaini 2, Salamat 2, Sumalinog 0, Austria 0.

JRU 71—Wilson 26, Pradas 13, Sena 10, Nocom 10, Bulangis 6, Se 4, Hayes 2, Lituania 0, Kabigting 0, Cagoco 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 37-34, 57-54, 81-71

Purefoods nips Alaska

From page A20

"Everybody in the stadium knew they (referees) blew the call," Cone, still infuriated, added inside the press room.

"This is absolutely horrible."

Raymundo appeared to have caught his own pass while trying to slip by Thoss and Hugnatan.

"As far as I can tell, I never touched it (ball) because I know my hands were raised," Thoss told the INQUIRER on the way to his car. "I could not risk having my arms down because I didn't want to be called for a foul."

Another violation Alaska pointed to was when Brandon Cablay "rebounded" the ball while in a jumpball situation with Thoss with 6.9 seconds to go.

The endgame brouhaha took a lot of luster from the scoring display of James Yap in the last three quarters, where he scored all but two of his 23 points, including a three-pointer that made it 85-86 with two minutes to go.

Cablay scored 19 points, the most he's had in over two years. He only totaled 15 points in his first seven games with the Giants.

"The commissioner (officer in charge Sonny Barrios) and his committee have some reviewing to do," Alaska owner Wilfred Steven Uytengsu said in a text message.

"We were penalized for staging a 19-point comeback."

Sta. Lucia won back-to-back games for the first time and tied Alaska at 4-4 after Dennis Espino made a free throw with six-tenths of a second left for an 84-83 win over Welcoat, which slid to 3-5, in the second game.

In a related development, NBA Asia executive Carlo Singson begged off from the list of candidates for the league commissionership. Norman Black, the Grand Slam champion coach, also excused himself after learning that he was nominated yesterday.

Their withdrawals left only lawyer Chito Salud, Lambert Ramos, Patrick Gregorio and Bert Manlapit in the race to replace Noli Eala.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 87—J. Yap 23, Cablay 19, Raymundo 15, Simon 13, Pingris 9, Lanete 4, Adducul 4, Sanz 0, Salvador 0, Yee 0.

ALASKA 86—Miller 18, Hugnatan 15, Cariaso 15, Cortez 12, Thoss 6, Ferriols 6, Dela Cruz 5, Quiñahan 4, Bono 3, Cabatu 2, Capus 0, Laure 0.

Quarters: 30-12, 46-32, 67-61, 87-86

Second Game

STA. LUCIA 84—Williams 18, Espino 14, Yeo 13, Miranda 10, Omolon 8, Reyes 7, Daa 6, Gonzales 5, Mamaclay 3, Aquino 0, Mendoza 0.

WELCOAT 83—Reyes 17, Lopez 15, Araña 10, Ibañez 10, Belasco 10, Gelig 8, Dulay 6, Devance 4, Baguion 3, Ballesteros 0, Sta. Maria 0, Mente 0.

Quarters: 22-19, 34-30, 57-53, 84-83

Perfect 9 helps Arguelles top Leviste chess

EFREN ARGUELLES TROUNCED CHESTER BRIAN GUERRERO AFTER 42 MOVES OF A Sicilian Defense-Accelerated Dragon variation in the final round to rule the 2nd Dr. Jose P. Leviste Sr. Under-2050 Open Non-Master Active Chess Cup at the Ateneo de Manila University over the weekend. Arguelles, a native of Tanauan City, Batangas, finished with 9.0 points to receive the top prize of P10,000 plus trophy. The awardees for the special categories are as follows: Top Under 18: Marco Polo Rosete, Top Under 16: Narquingel Reyes, Top Under 14: Alcon Paul Datu, Top Under 12: John Datu, Top Under 10: Paul Evangelista, Top Lady: Mikee Suede , Top Ateneo Alumnus: Leonard Reyes III (Batch '04), Top Ateneo Player: Gabriel Layugan (High School Varsity), 2nd Ateneo Player: Eduardo Macabulos (College Varsity), 3rd Ateneo Player: Emmanuel Jonathan Plan (High School Varsity). ***Marlon Bernardino, contributor***

Who moved my cheese?

Learn how to identify current challenges, organizational realities and change.

Succesful Change Management Workshop
Managing Organizational Change
Facilitated by Dr. Agnes Sarthou, Ph.D.

December 18 - 19, 2007, 9:00AM – 5:00PM
Intercontinental Manila

LEARNING INVESTMENT: Early Bird Rate = P 12,977 + VAT
Regular Rate = P 13,977 + VAT

* Discover basic concepts and principles of managing organization change.
* Find out how to develop a "Change Intervention Plan" for your organization.
* Learn organizational methodologies & techniques to promote proactive planning change.

RAVE REVIEWS!
"Very productive 2-day learning!" - Maria Alma Nimfa Sayas Edan, Janssen Pharmaceutica

"The seminar provided a mix of professionals from different business backgrounds. Good learning environment!" - Alvin B. Pascual, Smart Communications, Inc

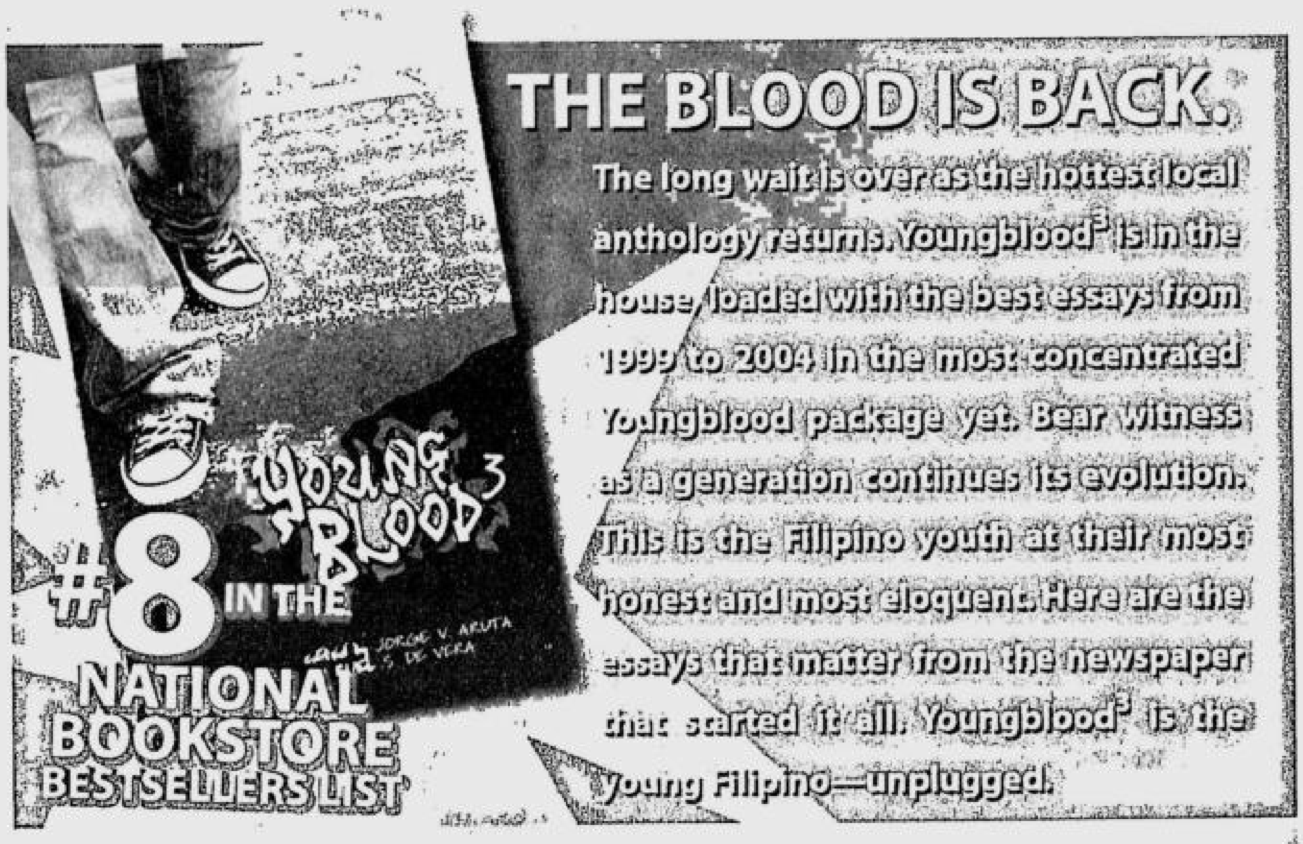
"This is my first time to attend this session. So far, everything discussed is new and has been very helpful!" - Gregorio P. Catapang, North Luzon Command (NOLCOM)

OUR FACILITATOR
Agnes "Aggie" Sarthou, Ph.D. brings with her a wealth of corporate and training experience on disciplines of management, organization visioning, strategic planning as well as skills on leadership, communication, people handling and values.

For over twenty years of training and consultancy experience, Dr. Sarthou continues to receive encores in her training programs. She has trained and consulted with dozens of multinational clients.

SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME WITH CHANGE!
Call Nicole, Fina or Juliet at 8132732/03; 8302191
Email us at slvguru@pldtdsl.net; nicole@saltandlight.ph
Visit our website at www.saltandlightventures.net

PRODUCER AND ORGANIZER: SALT&LIGHT VENTURES, INC. Bringing out the BEST in you.
EVENT PARTNERS: INQUIRER THE LEATHER COLLECTION



THE BLOOD IS BACK.

The long wait is over as the hottest local anthology returns. Youngblood³ is in the house, loaded with the best essays from 1999 to 2004 in the most concentrated Youngblood package yet. Bear witness as a generation continues its evolution. This is the Filipino youth at their most honest and most eloquent. Here are the essays that matter from the newspaper that started it all. Youngblood³ is the young Filipino—unplugged.

#8 IN THE NATIONAL BOOKSTORE BESTSELLERS LIST

Featuring essays by:
Jules Alcantara / Rain Reyes / Jose Leo Lemuel G. Caparas Jr. / Cinnamon Marcelo / Rodney L. Barayuga / Rio Cobcobo / Prairie Dawn / Ron Darvin / Agnes Fidelis C. Gloria-Pinzon / Elaine P. Lim / Purple / Ann Aberin / Squire / Alex Avila / Fitz Gerard Villafuerte / Windi Remmi Mondiguing Tapawan / Pearlsha Abubakar / Blagko / Lou Albano / Angelo Hernandez / Claudette M. Llarena / Connie Gundayao / Maria del Rosario / Karen Mae V. Gican / B / Jerick T. Aguilar / Malou I. Redome / Jen Esguerra / Erin Batac / Ella Reyes / Eder S. Mutuc, M.D. / Donalyne Rasalan Lampa / Carlos Alfonso Q. Santos / Christela Cabreros / Adelfo Cyrus Alanis / Aleja F. Martinez / Zvach / Matthias / Raiza Katrina Abubakar / Jessica Brillantes / Gabriella S. Martelino / Sherie S. Sta. Cruz / Janie S. Cambri / Jonas Soltes / Jael Wenceslao / Paolo L. Azurin / Diana Emlano / Kay Stephanie Veloso / TJ / Dawn Isobel Yu Aquino / Roel A. Andag / Paolo David / Florianne Jimenez

YOUNGBLOOD

Edited by Jorge V. Aruta and Ruel S. De Vera

P395 bookpaper P150 newsprint

Now available from National Book Store and PowerBooks.

Co-published by

ANVIL PUBLISHING INC. and INQUIRER books

More Sports stories on A25 to 28

Purefoods slips past Alaska Aces

Adducul beats buzzer in controversial triumph; SLR scores

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Talk 'N Text
7:20 p.m.—Magnolia vs Red Bull

By Musong R. Castillo

RYAN GREGORIO SUMMED it up as eloquently—and as safe—as he could.

"I thought my prayers were answered with that last shot," the Purefoods coach said last night shortly after the Tender Guicy Giants bungled a 19-point lead and got all the breaks in a highly controversial 87-86 decision of Alaska in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup.

Rommel Adducul hit a buzzer-beating short stab off a Kerby Raymundo pass that lifted the Tender Juicy Giants to their eighth win in nine games at the Araneta Coliseum.

But Alaska coach Tim Cone was unhappy with the work of the referees before the crucial play and said that he would put the game under protest.

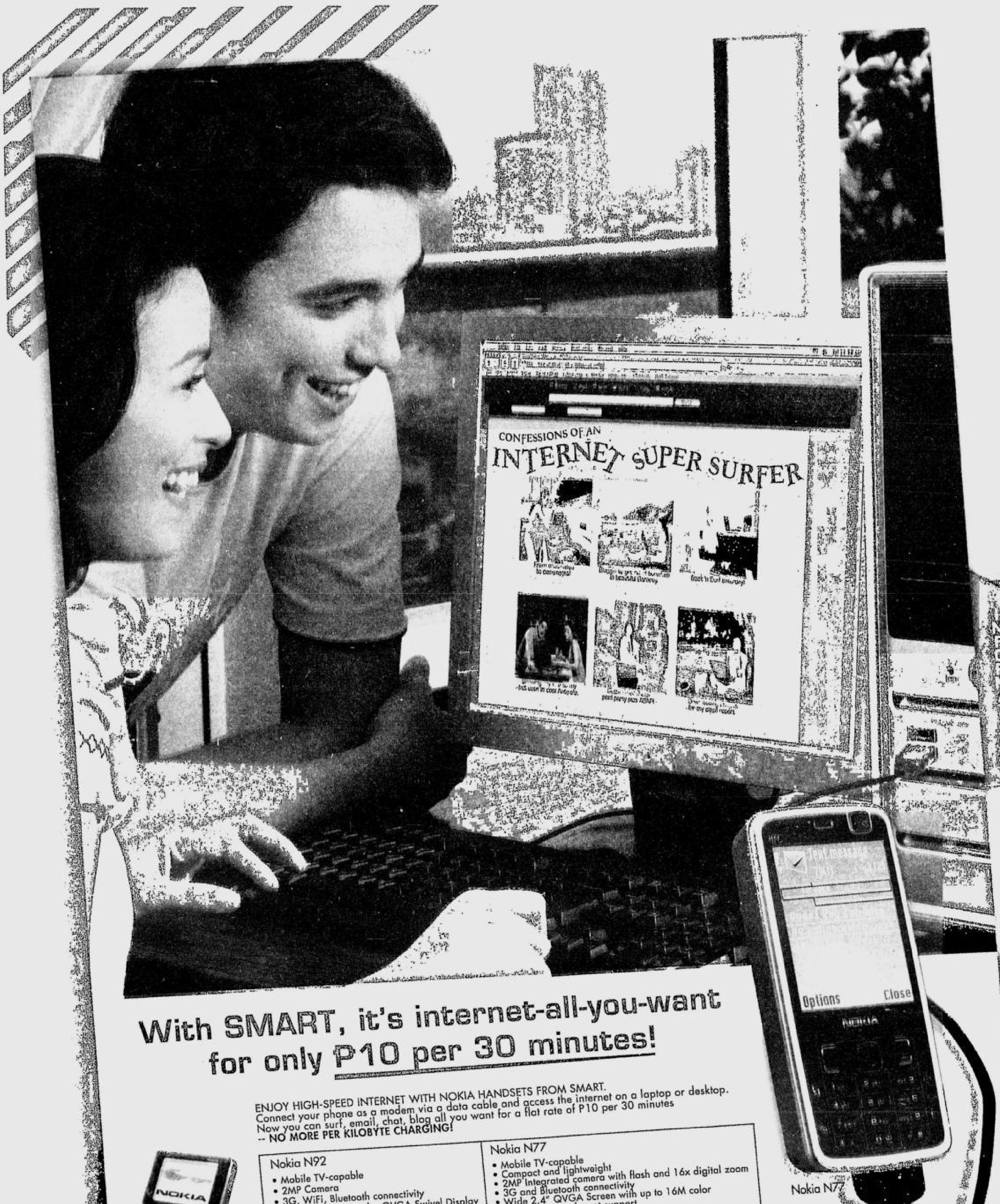
"I was closing my eyes and I was praying. Honestly, I didn't see the play," Gregorio added, when asked whether he thought Raymundo traveled while being sandwiched by a Sonny Thoss-Reynel Hugnatan double team in the game-winning play.

"Alaska played a solid defensive game and the ball just landed in the hands of Rommel," Gregorio said. "I had nothing to do with that last play. It was a shot made in heaven."

Cone confronted the referees and the league's technical officials later in the hallway, blasting them for failing to call a couple of that transpired in the final 6.9 seconds and Alaska protecting an 86-85 lead.

"We worked our asses to win this game," Cone, who was being pacified by members of his staff and venue security, shouted at technical chief Perry Martinez.

PUREFOODS/A19



With SMART, it's internet-all-you-want for only P10 per 30 minutes!

ENJOY HIGH-SPEED INTERNET WITH NOKIA HANDSETS FROM SMART.
Connect your phone as a modem via a data cable and access the internet on a laptop or desktop.
Now you can surf, email, chat, blog all you want for a flat rate of P10 per 30 minutes
-- NO MORE PER KILOBYTE CHARGING!

Nokia N92
- Mobile TV-capable
- 2MP Camera
- 3G, WiFi, Bluetooth connectivity
- Large 2.8" 16M color QVGA Swivel Display
- MP3/MP4 Player & FM Radio
- Video Streaming

Nokia N77
- Mobile TV-capable
- Compact and lightweight
- 2MP Integrated camera with flash and 16x digital zoom
- 3G and Bluetooth connectivity
- Wide 2.4" QVGA Screen with up to 16M color
- Email with attachment support
- Video Streaming

Nokia N77

Nokia N92

Get Nokia N92 and Nokia N77 FREE at SMART Gold Plan 2500.
Also available under SMART Buddy Prepaid. Visit any SMART Wireless Center today.

To activate your phone settings, send SET <handset model> to 211. Free of charge. Go to www.smart.com.ph/3g for more details.

For inquiries and concerns, just access SIM connect on your SMART menu (text GET MENU to 9888 to download the SIM connect menu) or web connect via www.smart.com.ph
Get your handset from us and enjoy: all-original battery and accessories • 15-day replacement warranty • 12-month service warranty

You can also enjoy internet browsing straight on your cellphone for the same flat rate of P10 for 30 minutes. Open to all GPRS and 3G handsets.

NOKIA

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Man dies inside burning home in Quezon City

By Tina G. Santos
and Jeannette I. Andrade

A MAN WAS KILLED AFTER HE was trapped in his burning house in Quezon City at dawn yesterday.

In a separate incident, 200 families lost their homes when a fire hit a residential area in Binondo, Manila on Tuesday night.

The Quezon City Fire District identified the fatality as Alejandro del Mundo, 68. The fire began in his house at 58 Sto. Tomas corner D. Tuazon Streets, Barangay Don Manuel in New Manila. Damage to property was placed at P7 million.

SFO4 Jose Nagpacan, QCFD arson investigation unit head, said the Del Mundo family did not immediately detect the fire because they were probably sound asleep. "Their neighbors were the ones who reported the fire to us," he said.

Nagpacan said that the cause of the fire was still being investigated.

According to the fire official, the house was a fire trap. There were at least two fire exits on the second floor but these had been locked up.

Other members of the Del Mundo family and their house helpers were awakened by the smoke and were able to escape. Alejandro was later found lying face down in his room after the fire was put out.

QCFD reports revealed that the fire reached the third alarm at around 3 a.m. and was placed under control by responding fire fighting units 45 minutes later.

On Tuesday night, some 200 families lost their homes and P1.5 million worth of property in Binondo.

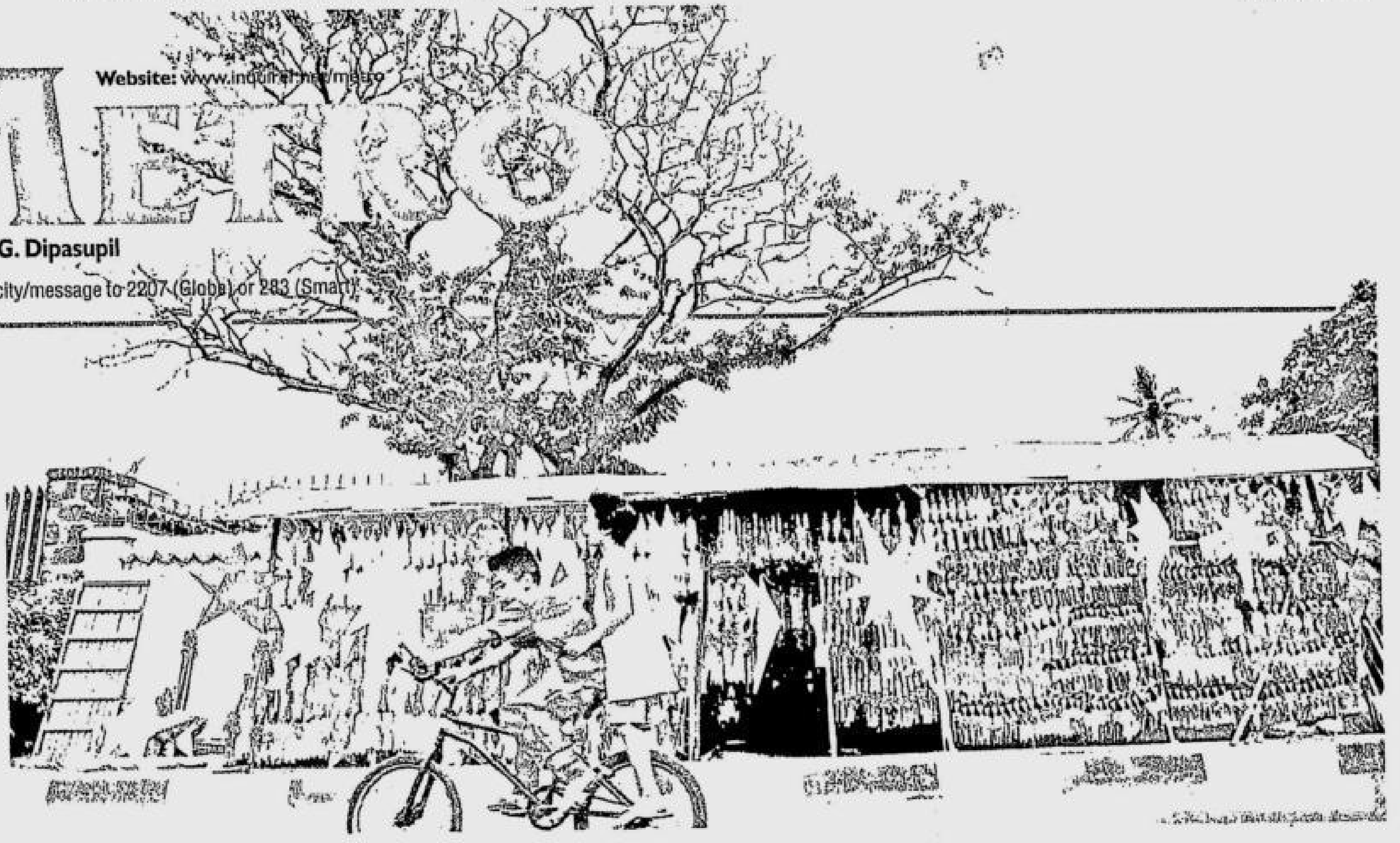
SF02 Wilson Tana of the Manila Fire Bureau said the blaze, which reached the fifth alarm, damaged several houses mostly made of light materials.

Among those damaged by the fire was the house of former Sen. Ambrosio Padilla.

Fire officials said the blaze which started at around 6 p.m. started in one of the rooms of Padilla's house at the corner of Barcelona and Jaboneros Streets, Binondo. The room was reportedly leased to Toto Lim.

DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, Nov. 22, is the 113th birth anniversary of poet, playwright and journalist Jose Corazon de Jesus who was born in Sta. Cruz, Manila. "Huseng Batute" also excelled in verbal jousts called the Balagtasan and acted in movies like "Oriental Blood" (1930) and "Sa Pinto ng Langit" (1931). He entered politics but lost in his two attempts to become mayor of Santa Maria, Bulacan. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*



HOLIDAY SCENE
Two boys on a bike ride past a store selling Christmas lanterns on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Labor case filed vs ABS-CBN

TV editor accuses firm of denying him due process

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AN EDITOR OF TELEVISION NETwork ABS-CBN the other day filed a case against the company's top news officials led by award-winning broadcast journalist Maria Ressa at the labor department.

Ferdie Aboga, director of the network's day coverage, accused Ressa and the other officials of unjustly placing him under preventive suspension and denying him his basic right to due process.

"Not only was I not informed of the nature of the offense I was accused of, I was also not given any opportunity to defend myself," Aboga said in a statement.

In his complaint, he demanded over P2 million in actual, moral and exemplary damages.

According to Aboga, Ressa and ABS-CBN news gathering chief, Charie Villa, asked him last September to give his side on allegations that he had violated protocol in his pursuit of a story.

He added that Villa later cleared him, "having realized that the accusation was without basis."

However, Bong Osorio, head of the ABS-CBN corporate communications office, said that Aboga has yet to be cleared of the charges against him.

"Ferdie Aboga is under investigation for possible violations of the Code of Ethics, including trying to bribe a co-employee," Osorio said in a statement to the media.

"He is also currently under preventive suspension to protect the integrity of our news group," Osorio added, saying that network officials will soon come out with a decision on Aboga's case.

In his complaint, Aboga recalled that the accusation against him resurfaced a month after the meeting that had supposedly cleared him of the charges.

"This time, there were additional accusations by TV Patrol supervising producer Beth Frondoso of an alleged attempt (on my part) to bribe her to pursue the said story," he said. Aboga said he was surprised when Frondoso's statement led to his preventive suspension for an undetermined period. This was followed by a second notice ordering his suspension for 30 days.

"I had no idea what was happening. I was not even informed if a formal charge was filed against me, or what actions have I committed that may have constituted a wrong," Aboga said in a statement, stressing that he was not given a chance to confront his accusers and defend himself.

Aboga said he was with ABS-CBN news for more than 10 years. He started as a segment writer and reporter for "Hoy Gising," and was head writer for "Alas Singko Y Medya." He also wrote for "TV Patrol" and "Bandila."

"Dobleng sulit sa dobleng cellphones ng Talk 'N Text!"
— Benny & Benjo, kambal, naka-Talk 'N Text
GaanPhone Doble
₱2,990 lang, dalawang cellphones na!
EXCLUSIVE TO TALK 'N TEXT
Introducing Motorola W156
MOTOROLA W156 FEATURES:
• 200 phonebook memory
• 60 inbox
• Malinaw na audio at speakerphone
• Exclusibong ringtones at games
Sa Talk 'N Text lang 'to! Bili na!
MOTOROLA
TALK 'N TEXT
Gumagaan ang Life!
Promo period is from November 21 to December 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5762. Series of 2007.
Powered by SMART

Delinquent taxpayers' property up for auction

By Kristine L. Alave

THE MARIKINA CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday reminded its residents to pay their taxes promptly. Should they fail to do so, the local government said it would not hesitate to foreclose their property and sell it.

To prove that it is serious in cracking down on delinquent residents, the city government will put on the auction block today 150 pieces of real property seized by the Treasurer's Office for the owners' failure to pay real estate taxes. The property consist of both residential and commercial real estate.

Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando said they pushed through with the auction to generate more income for the city's coffers.

She added that the public auction should instill responsibility among city residents and encourage them to pay their taxes on time, noting that their taxes are used to fund social services and infrastructure projects.

The auction will be the sixth the city government has conducted since it started the program in February 2003. Last year, it collected P1.374 billion, P489 million of which came from real property tax income.

Binondo raid yields firecrackers cache

By Tina G. Santos

AUTHORITIES YESTERDAY seized some P4.2 million worth of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices suspected to have been smuggled into the country from China.

More than 600 boxes of pyrotechnics were seized during a raid conducted by members of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group at the Tosaka Trading warehouse on Asuncion Street, Binondo in Manila.

The agents went to the warehouse at 10:30 a.m. yesterday to serve a warrant of seizure and detention on Vicente Cheng alias Zhen Teng Zhang. Cheng is believed to be the owner of Tosaka Trading, a local company licensed to sell only locally manufactured firecrackers, according to Undersecretary Antonio Villar Jr., PASG head.

Villar said Cheng faces criminal charges for violating Republic Act 7831 otherwise known as the Pyrotechnics Act and Tariffs and Customs Code of the Philippines.

"We had to take immediate action on the reported storage of illegally imported firecrackers as this could pose a big risk to the residents in the area," Villar said. "If an explosion happens, countless lives could be lost."

The antismuggling czar said the seized firecrackers would be turned over to the Bureau of Customs for disposal.

He added that PASG intelligence operations would continue especially since the raided establishment is believed to be only one of several warehouses operated by Cheng in Binondo and other neighboring areas.

Health authorities recently announced a crackdown on firecrackers with the approach of the Christmas season. The health department wants to do away with the use of firecrackers by merrymakers by 2010 to avoid accidents.

A POLICE officer inspects a box of firecrackers found inside a Binondo warehouse. The firecrackers are believed to have been smuggled into the country from China. REM ZAMORA

Army doctor nabbed after bar row

By Jeannette I. Andrade

POLICEMEN YESTERDAY ARrested an Army doctor who allegedly punched in the stomach a four-month pregnant woman after she reportedly refused to accompany him to a hotel.

Capt. Noel Tanabe, assigned at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center pathology department, was detained at the Quezon City Police District Kamuning Station 10 after Ciara Dionisio, 24, complained that he hit her and destroyed her cell phone.

Tanabe, however, said that what happened was an accident, and promised to pay for Dionisio's cell phone. He also denied making an "indecent proposal" to the victim.

Police investigators said that the incident happened at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday inside the Zirkoh bar at the corner of Timog Avenue and Scout Tuazon Street in Barangay Laging Handa, Kamuning.

Dionisio claimed that Tanabe, whom she said she had known since February, invited her to go out with him. She agreed, although she asked a friend to come along.

At the bar, however, the Army officer allegedly asked her to send her friend home and come with him to a hotel.

When she refused, reminding him that she was pregnant, Tanabe took her cell phone and threw it on the floor.

"I tried to take back the phone but he grabbed it," Dionisio told the INQUIRER. At one point, Tanabe hit her in the stomach, causing her to double over, the victim added.

Zirkoh personnel then stepped in and called up the police.

Tanabe denied Dionisio's accusation, saying that he took the cell phone as payment for the P60,000 she allegedly borrowed from him.

Muntinlupa council bats for woman power

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE MUNTINLUPA CITY Council has passed an ordinance aimed at giving women a stronger role in the city's governance and development.

City Ordinance 07-012, creating the Council of Women, also supports the promotion of gender equality by giving women more opportunities in poverty alleviation and social justice.

"We recognize the important role of women in the city's total development. We want marginalized women to have more in employment, livelihood, social services and skills development," Muntinlupa Mayor Aldrin San Pedro said.

Under the ordinance, the Council of Women will draw up strategies to meet women's needs in livelihood, health services and upgrading of skills.

It also stresses that women have more active roles in the city's governance and development in order to break down the gender barrier.

"We also want to ensure that women will always be represented adequately in local government bodies. We will increase their role in different areas," San Pedro said.

The mayor's wife, Leah, chairs another women's group in the city, the Organisasyon ng Kababaihan sa Muntinlupa (Organization of Women in Muntinlupa) or OK Muntinlupa. She is joined by Trina Biazon, wife of Rep. Ruffy Biazon.

GMA doesn't care about public perception

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE SMUGGLING OF LUXURY vehicles has been going on at the Subic Freeport for quite sometime now, but remains unabated because some officials look the other way.

Those recommended by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to be charged criminally and administratively, apart from Armand Areza, were Subic antismuggling czar Jose Calimlim, seaport manager Perfecto Pascual, customs collector Marietta Zamoranos and four other customs officials.

They were charged for alleged conspiracy in the smuggling of de luxe vehicles at the Freeport.

Areza should not have been included in the charge sheet since his job is to manage the Freeport. His work does not include revenue collections inside the seaport; technically, antismuggling is not his province.

Going after smuggling is the job of Calimlim and Zamoranos who have allegedly been quite negligent in going after car smugglers.

There are rumors going the rounds that Subic Freeport is like Peyton Place, that fictional town in the US (and the title of a 1956 best seller) whose residents carried on wild affairs with persons not their wives or husbands.

That's probably the reason smugglers are having a good time: People who are supposed to go after them are too busy looking into each other's eyes, and more.

* * *

Many people in the know say Calimlim and Zamoranos should have been relieved a long time ago because they allegedly don't do their jobs well.

But Calimlim was allegedly recommended by a powerful man who is not in government, while Zamoranos is allegedly related to a controversial former commissioner of the Commission on Elections.

There would be fewer cases of smuggling if people are hired because they are qualified for the job and not because they have connections, according to insiders at the SBMA.

* * *

This is the first time the World Bank has withheld a soft loan for a major road-building project in the Philippines because of massive corruption.

The World Bank didn't defer loans to the country even during the time of former President Marcos.

This new development would add to the perception of many that the administration of President Gloria is the most corrupt government in the eyes of foreign lenders.

* * *

But it seems the Macapagal-Arroyo administration no longer cares about public perception.

Time and again, surveys have shown that the President has rated low in terms of public esteem. And yet she projects an "I don't care" attitude, making her even more the villain in the eyes of the majority of the citizenry.

I was already a reporter during the martial law years and I can tell you that Marcos cared about public perception even if he held people by the neck.

When newspapers reported corruption in some government offices, Marcos would immediately relieve the officials concerned.

As a reporter covering the Western (Manila) Police District, I once wrote about the abuses committed by many policemen assigned at the Ermita-Malate district.

Marcos personally ordered the entire force at the WPD's Station 5 replaced.

But President Gloria? When I was still in her good graces, I told her time and again to stop or, at least, minimize the abuses committed by policemen against civilians.

All she did was to give a token order to the Philippine National Police to look into my complaint.

ebony&ivory
WEAR IT THE WAY YOU FEEL IT
Dressing up made simple with Fabulous Cover Girl and Shinjuku Dresses & Elegant Follie Footwear
METRO
MARKET! MARKET!
Bonifacio Global City
DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET

METROBRIEFS

Tiangco running for president in 2016?

WILL Navotas City Mayor Toby Tiangco be the opposition's standard bearer in 2016 ? Yes, according to former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, one of the opposition's elder leaders, in a ceremony honoring the city's new barangay officials yesterday, which was also Tiangco's 40th birthday. "A principled man, honest and a hardworking public servant who could eventually be vice president and then president," Maceda described the mayor. Former president Joseph Estrada who was also present, agreed with Maceda's statement and added, "Senador *muna* (Senator first)". Tiangco said he was flattered but downplayed Maceda's statement. "It was said in jest because it was my birthday, but I'm humbled and flattered," he said

Nancy C. Carvajal

Traders gets 2 years for selling pirated software

A TRADER has been sentenced to two years in prison by the Manila Regional Trial Court for peddling pirated software. Paquito Cantemprate Jr., owner of Benpaq Enterprises on H. Lopez Boulevard, Tondo, was also ordered by Judge Antonio Eugenio of Manila RTC Branch 24 to pay a fine of P50,000 after he was found to have violated the Intellectual Property Code. Around 140 copies of pirated Microsoft software were seized from Cantemprate's store by operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation during a raid in November 2000. In his testimony, Cantemprate denied selling Microsoft software and said he only acted as an agent for Maryanne Sacquing, an Internet cafe operator.

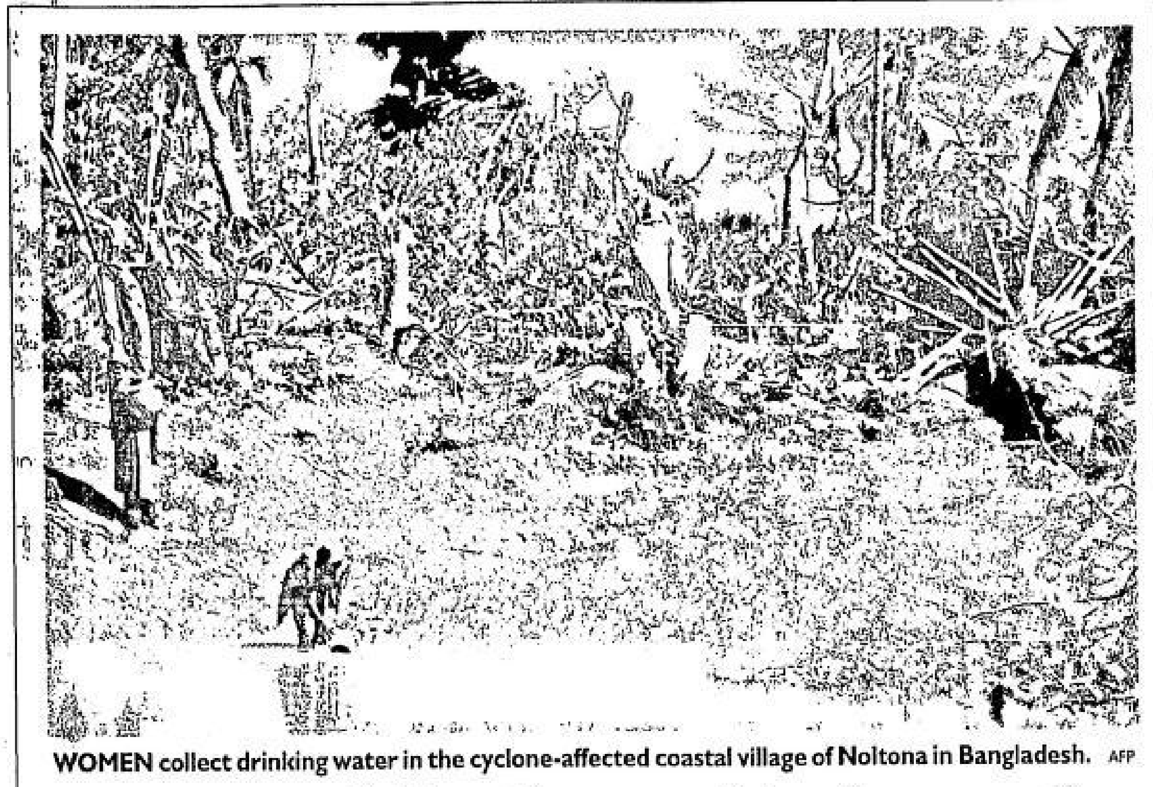
Allison W. Lopez

Special Mass for missing lawyer

THE FAMILY of lawyer James Christopher T. Fernandez is inviting relatives and friends to a special celebration of his life on his birthday, Nov. 23. A special Mass will be celebrated by the new regent of the University of Santo Tomas College of Civil Law, Fr. Max Gatela, at 6 p.m., followed by a reception at the lobby of the Faculty of Civil Law in the UST main building. Fernandez, 26, was a graduate of the college. On Nov. 3, he and his girlfriend, lawyer Analy Mangalindan, drowned in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, although Fernandez's body has not been found. His parents are retired Judge Manuel and Celva Fernandez Jr. while his siblings are Armand and Desiree Fernandez-Oliveros, and Jack and Rhoda Fernandez.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



WOMEN collect drinking water in the cyclone-affected coastal village of Noltona in Bangladesh. AFP

Scramble for relief goods

BANGLADESH—OVERBURDENED relief centers scrambled on Wednesday to help tens of thousands of scared and hungry cyclone survivors, as worried aid groups tracked an outbreak of waterborne illness that reportedly left two children dead.

Fistfights broke out in some relief camps, as ever-growing crowds of people struggled to get help after last week's cyclone, which killed at least 3,100 people and left many times that number homeless.

In Purba Saralia, nearly 2,000 people descended on a government-run relief camp, hurriedly set up in a firehouse, where officials only had food for 1,200.

"This is a crisis. I don't have enough food and we have no work," said Lal Mia, a farmer waiting in line.

A few kilometers away, in the village of Basal Bar, fistfights broke out among cyclone victims as thousands of people, who had gathered before dawn, waited for rice at a food distribution center set up by a local aid group.

The coastal area battered by Cyclone Sidr, meanwhile, has been struck with waterborne diseases, Dhaka's Daily Star newspaper reported, quoting local health officials.

Two children died of diarrhea in the hard-hit district of Patuakhali, the newspaper reported.

The spread of waterborne diseases, which can spread quickly, is a major worry in the aftermath of such storms. *AP*

BREAKTHROUGH

Organ transplants grown in lab seen

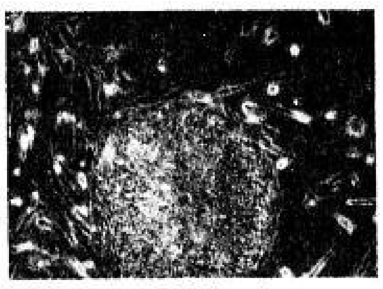
CHICAGO—TRANSPLANTABLE hearts grown in petri dishes and the regeneration of amputated limbs were once the things of science fiction.

But a major breakthrough brought those dreams closer to reality on Tuesday after researchers announced they were able to turn the clock back on skin cells and transform them into stem cells, the mutable building blocks of organs and tissues.

"This is truly the Holy Grail: To be able to take a few cells from a patient—say a cheek swab or few skin cells—and turn them into stem cells in the laboratory," Robert Lanza of Advanced Cell Technology said.

"It's a bit like learning how to turn lead into gold," he said.

While the research is still in its infancy, the potential benefits are "tremendous," said Lanza, who has already found ways to cut the death rate following heart attacks in half, restore blood to limbs which would otherwise have to be amputated and construct a functioning kidney using stem cells.



THIS recent 2007 handout photo provided by the University of Wisconsin-Madison shows genetic modifications in skin cells to induce the cells into what scientists call a pluripotent state—a condition that is essentially the same as that of embryonic stem cells. AFP

The use of skin cells will eventually allow doctors to create stem cells with a specific patient's genetic code, eliminating the risk that the body would reject transplanted tissues or organs.

It also will lead to a virtual explosion in the availability of research materials used to test new drugs and understand how diseases like cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's function.

That's because stem cells are able to infinitely replicate themselves and can be turned into any of 220 different types of cells in the human body.

But access to stem cells has been restricted due to complications, both ethical and technical, of harvesting human embryos.

The new technique, while far from perfected, is so promising that the man who managed to clone the world's first sheep, Dolly, is giving up his work cloning embryos to focus on stem cells derived from skin cells.

"The fact that (the) introduction of a small number of proteins into adult human cells could produce cells that are equivalent to embryo stem cells takes us into an entirely new era of stem cell biology," said Ian Wilmut, the Scottish researcher who first created a viable clone by transferring a cell nucleus into a new embryo.

"We can now envisage a time when a simple approach can be used to produce stem cells that are able to form any tissue from a small sample taken from any of us," he said. *AFP*

Consumer group finds trouble in US toyland

WASHINGTON—US STORE shelves are still stacked with dangerous toys, a consumer group warned in a study published on Tuesday, despite a spate of recent health scares that prompted mass recalls of items made in China.

Inspectors from the US Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) "still found trouble in toyland on store shelves this fall," the group's Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzwinski said in a statement presenting its annual toy safety survey.

The group found dozens of examples of toys and jewelry with high levels of lead and other poisonous chemicals, dangerously strong magnets, and parts small enough to choke a child if swallowed.

Almost 73,000 children under the age of five went to emergency rooms, and 20 children died, due to toy-related injuries in 2005, it said, citing data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Another group, the California-based Center for Environmental Health, last week reported finding various children's products with illegally high levels of lead, including children's backpacks, rain ponchos and vinyl lunchboxes.

It said nine of 100 toys bought from various stores had high lead levels. The nine products were all made in China.

China is the world's top toy exporter, selling 22 billion toys overseas last year.

A spate of overseas safety recalls this year targeted Chinese-made products ranging from seafood to car tires, with toys in the spotlight in recent months. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Keep Duch in jail

PHNOM PENH—Prosecutors urged a UN-backed genocide tribunal on Wednesday to deny bail to the former head of the Khmer Rouge's largest torture center, saying his release could pose a threat to public order in Cambodia. Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, should remain behind bars until his trial starts "mid-next year," said Prosecutor Chea Leang. The long-delayed tribunal has not set a specific date for the start of trials. Duch, 65, is charged with committing crimes against humanity as the commandant of the regime's notorious Tuol Sleng prison. He is one of five people held in connection with the communist regime's brutal rule of Cambodia in the 1970s. ***AP***

Money in trash

NEW YORK—A painting found in a pile of trash on a New York street sold at Sotheby's auction house late Tuesday for $1 million, nearly 20 years after it was stolen from a warehouse in Texas. "Tres personajes" ("Three People"), a 1970 work by Rufino Tamayo, one of Mexico's best known artists, was bagged for $1,049,000 by a north American buyer who fought off a telephone bidder, the auction house said. It had been saved from the garbage by Elizabeth Gibson, who spotted the work while out walking one morning in 2003. She found the artwork, measuring 98 by 130 centimeters (38 by 50 inches), in perfect condition. ***AFP***

Out as Army chief

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf is set to quit as Army chief and become a civilian president at the weekend, a top government official said on Wednesday, as the military ruler won fresh US backing. Attorney general Malik Mohammad Qayyum told AFP that if the Supreme Court throws out a final challenge on Thursday to Musharraf's reelection as expected, he would hang up his uniform within days. The Pakistani leader has been under intense international pressure led by the United States to end the state of emergency he imposed on Nov. 3, quit as chief of Army staff, hold fair elections and free political prisoners. Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999. ***AFP***

Strike at US bases

TOKYO—Tens of thousands of Japanese workers at US military bases in Japan went on strike on Wednesday, protesting a government plan to cut their benefits as part of an effort to tighten its budget for support of the 50,000 US troops here. Japan covers support and operational costs for the US bases in Japan under an agreement with Washington, adding up to a budget of billions of dollars each year, more than any other host country. ***AP***

[LEGALIZE YOUR SOFTWARE BY NOV. 30!]

AND GET THE BEST PRICES ON GENUINE MICROSOFT SOFTWARE.

VISIT YOUR NEAREST COMPUTER RESELLER TODAY.

cti - COLUMBIA TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Tel No. (632) 524-0393 loc 604

COMPlink
Tel No. (632) 687-1234

DIGITAL
Tel No. (082) 221-1256

MICROGENESIS BUSINESS SYSTEMS www.mgenesis.com
Tel No. (632) 750-7000

MGOLD
Tel No. (632) 889-2800

microphase
Tel No. (632) 812-8814

NG KHAI Development Corporation
Tel No. (032) 346-2926

NORTHGATE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Tel No. (632) 893-2343

OCTAGON
Tel No. (632) 526-7152

PCEXPRESS
Tel No. (632) 725-8888

PC WORX
Tel No. (632) 898-3354 to 57

SILICON VALLEY computer centre
Tel No. (632) 371-6868

TCA
Tel No. (632) 914-1270 / 73

THINKING-TOOLS
Tel No. (032) 254-2227

VCS VillMan
Tel No. (632) 892-2222

xitrix www.xitrix.com
Tel No. (632) 926-8279

ZENSHIN Systems Corporation
Tel No. (632) 365-0536 loc 149

The New C-Class is here and your driving experience will never feel the same again.

▸ The Agility Control system employs a selective damping system that automatically adjusts the suspension to changing road conditions, resulting in greater drive comfort and responsiveness.

▸ With a dominant front grill, distinctive headlights and sleek lines that sweep dynamically upwards behind it, the New C-Class projects an authoritative presence. Equally impressive is its ability to take on a distinctly luxurious, sporty or race track personality, depending on the preference of the owner made available through the Elegance and Avantgarde option design lines.

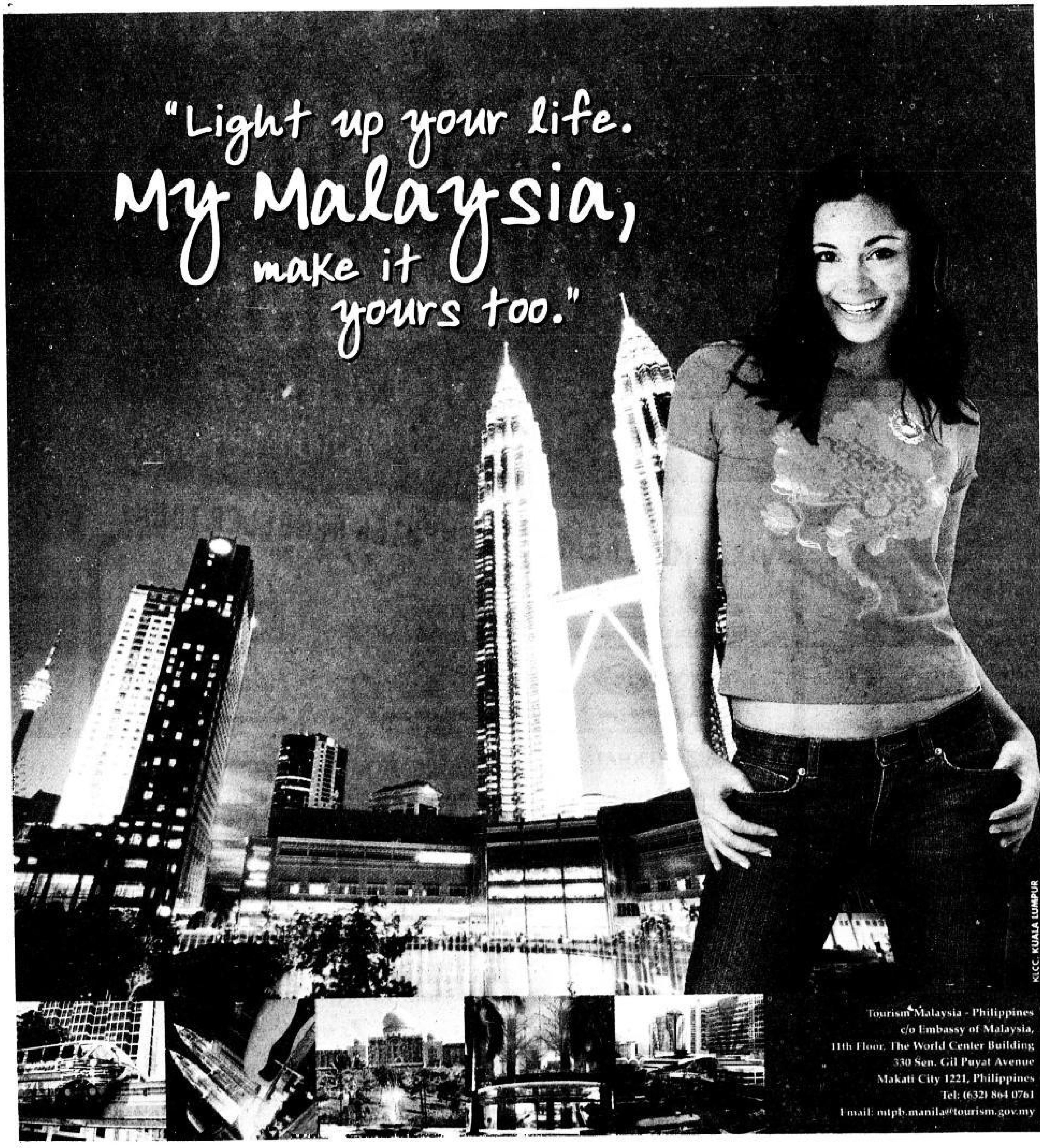
▸ Convenience is, quite at your fingertips in the New C-Class. The cockpit management and data system empowers you to take charge of the audio, video and telephone systems that functions with the Controller, a single button located conveniently in front of the armrest. Another special feature is the Integrated Bluetooth Telephony which allows you to take calls without taking your hands off the wheel, or your attention from the road. Visit our Mercedes-Benz showrooms today and C-For Yourself!

Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Financial
Solutions: Unlike any other.

CATS

Mercedes-Benz Global City - 32nd St. cor. Rizal Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, 1634, Metro Manila Tel: (632) 8157777 Fax: (632) 8159153 Mobile: (63920) 9046474
Mercedes-Benz Greenhills - 1008 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan 1502, Metro Manila Tel: (632) 7235808 Fax: (632) 7267741 Mobile: (63920) 9046472 E-mail:mercedesbenz@cats.com.ph **www.mercedes-benz.com.ph**



Tourism Malaysia - Philippines
c/o Embassy of Malaysia,
11th Floor, The World Center Building
330 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1221, Philippines
Tel: (632) 864 0761
Email: mtpb.manila@tourism.gov.my

Visit Malaysia
Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood

Once a sleepy mining town, Kuala Lumpur is today a booming metropolis to rival any of the world's great cities. Most noted for the Petronas Twin Towers which dominate the skyline, KL also has many fascinating sights, sounds, tastes and smells to offer adventurers on the streets. Feel the pulse of the city within the Golden Triangle – the hub of KL, or venture out to the outlying limestone cave temples at Batu Caves. And if you're feeling lucky, the casino at the hill resort of Genting Highlands isn't too far away. As always in Malaysia, top off your tour of KL with a generous meal. You'll be so spoilt for choice, you'll wish you had an extra stomach.

TOURISM MALAYSIA
Home to:
malaysia AirAsia

Malaysia Truly Asia
Discover more at www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my

WHAT'S INSIDE
RP opens World Cup bid /A26

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
SPORTS
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

The ONLY holiday shopping event you need to catch!
Noel
Christmas @2007 shop expo
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
NOV 21-25
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
11:00 AM - 8:00 PM
WORLD TRADE CENTER
METRO MANILA

Hapee goes for clean sweep today

WITH A SEMIFINAL SLOT TUCKED UNDER ITS BELT, HAPEE Toothpaste goes for a sweep when the 2008 PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup resumes today at the Arena in San Juan.

RICO Maierhofer of Harbour Centre finds himself trapped in a sea of Mail and More defenders last Tuesday. The Batang Pier won, 74-66. RYAN LIM

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	6	0
Harbour	6	1
Toyota	3	4
Mall And More	3	4
San Mig	2	4
Pharex	1	5
Bacchus	0	6

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena*)
2 p.m.—San Mig Coffee vs Bacchus
4 p.m.—Pharex vs Hapee Toothpaste

The Complete Protectors will stake their immaculate slate against a team with nothing much to lose, Pharex, in the 4 p.m. game.

Serving as curtain-raiser at 2 p.m. will be the encounter between San Mig Coffee and winless Bacchus where the Coffee Kings hope to secure a quarterfinal berth.

Hapee is enjoying its hottest start in years, raising its record to 6-0 last Tuesday by rolling back Toyota Balintawak, 79-75.

"I've been with the team for quite a long time and we're very happy that we reached another milestone in this conference," said Hapee team manager Bernard Yang, whose charges only won five games last season.

But Hapee coach Jun Noel said there's no reason to put down their guard yet as they need to sustain their intensity.

"We're still far from our mission but we're confident of accomplishing it with the way my players are performing," said Noel.

Hapee is expected to lean anew on Reed Juntilla, Mark Borboran, Larry Rodriguez and Fil-Am Gabe Norwood.

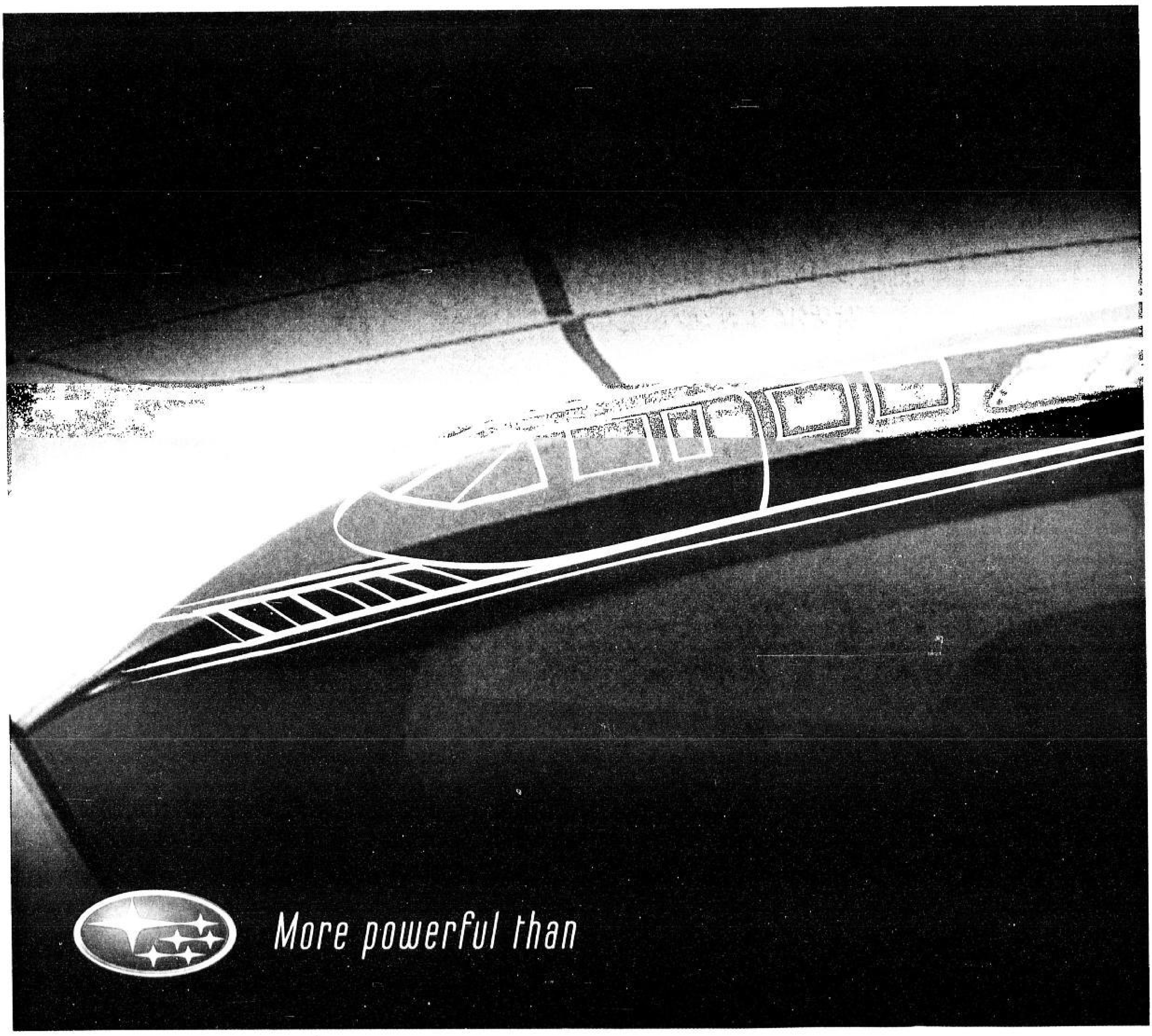
Joining the Complete Protectors in the semis is idle Harbour Centre, which finished the eliminations with 6-1 card.

San Mig needs to beat Bacchus to tie Mail and More and Toyota Balintawak in the standings and join Hapee and Harbour in Group A with a superior quotient.

If the Raiders score an upset, they will drag down San Mig to Group B with Mail and More moving up to Group A.

Marc Anthony Reyes

WILLIE Miller of the Alaska Aces looks for a way past the defense of Purefoods guard Brandon Cablay in their game yesterday. ***See story on PBA, Champions League and other sports news on Late Sports, A19-20.*** AUGUST DELA CRUZ



More powerful than

RP opens World Cup bid

Rosales, Lascuña compete against some of golf's best

DONGGUAN, CHINA—THONGCHAI Jaidee and Prayad Marksaeng will be decked out in Thailand's national colors as they bid for glory in the Omega Mission Hills World Cup which begins on Thursday.

The Thai duo will use matching strips of white, blue and red shirts—colors of the Thai national flag—in the opening three rounds at the Mission Hills Golf Club and wear a yellow strip as a show of respect to the King of Thailand in Sunday's final round.

Prayad said it was Thongchai's idea to use matching kits for this week's $5 million showpiece, which will see 28 nations competing for the Omega Mission Hills World Cup, an event widely regarded as "The Olympics of Golf."

"We hope that this will inspire us," said Prayad, a five-time winner on the Asian Tour.

Asia's hopes will also be led by the home team of Liang Wen-chong, the current Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit leader, and Zhang Lian-wei, India's Jyoti Randhawa and Gaurav Ghei and Gerald Rosales and Tony Lascuña of the Philippines.

The first and third rounds will use the fourball (better ball) format while the second and final rounds will use the foursomes (alternate shot) format.

Meanwhile, Artemio Murakami will lead a five-man RP contingent seeing action this week in the inaugural Hana Bank Vietnam Masters at the Hanoi Phoenix Golf Resort course.

Joining Murakami, who scored a breakthrough Asian Tour win in the Iskandor Johore Open in Malaysia two months ago, are Angelo Que, Mars Pucay, Jerome Delariarte and Marlon Dizon.

Thongchai, fresh from a joint second finish in last week's UBS Hong Kong Open, hopes the team will stage a memorable run at Mission Hills, the world's largest golf complex with 12 courses.

Thongchai believes the Thais can eclipse the favorites this week who include England's Justin Rose and Ian Poulter, South Africans Retief Goosen and Trevor Immelman and Scotland's Colin Montgomerie and Marc Warren, who were last year's runner-up in Barbados. The Thais won the qualifying event in Asia, the Fortis International Challenge, with a 30-under-par winning score.

"We are very confident. With Prayad, we have a very good team. We'll try to win. If we can do it, it'll be big for Thailand. We'll work together and plan our strategy. Prayad is in good form and I enjoyed myself in Hong Kong. My iron play and driving was good," said Thongchai, a two-time Asian Tour No. 1.

AFP

GERALD Rosales pairs up with Tony Lascuña for the World Cup.

ITF TENNIS

Arevalo boots out SEAG teammate

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CZARINA MAE AREVALO OUTLASTED FELlow Southeast Asian Games-bound Denise Dy, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, yesterday to reach the second round of the PLDT-Smart ITF women's tennis circuit at the Manila Polo Club shell-courts.

The 22-year-old Arevalo, in the final phase of her training for the Thailand SEAG two weeks from now, was surprised by Dy's fast-paced game and needed to work double time in the next two sets to advance against a Japanese foe.

The only remaining local hope will square off with Ayumi Oka, the fifth-seeded netter who downed China's Xi Lu, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

"I pushed too hard in the first set, i tried to win it fast," said Arevalo, who won the bronze medal in the SEAG team event two years ago.

Bambi Zoleta and Fil-Am Michelle Pang earlier dropped their respective first-round matches against Indonesian opponents last Tuesday.

Arevalo, who has a scholarship with University of Bangkok, lost a lot of weight in preparation for the SEA Games, but she still lacked speed when the lean Dy sent her all over the court with an array of shots to easily take the opening sets.

Dy's hard work, however, took its toll on her hamstring which she hurt during the PCA Open two week ago.

Sensing Dy's trouble, Arevalo rallied with her powerful forehands and occasional forays to the net.

No local bets reached the quarterfinals in the first week of the tournament and Arevalo said she'll try to reverse that trend today.

"I'll just go out there and give it my best shot and we'll see what happens," said Arevalo.

SPORTSWATCH

Korean 9-ball: Williams brings down Zerna

FILIPINO RICKY "BAI" ZERNA BOWED TO tournament favorite Charlie "The Korean Dragon" Williams of the United States but wound up the best Filipino finisher in the recent 2007 Korea Pro 9-Ball Tour over the weekend in Incheon, Korea.

Williams played a near-perfect match in beating compatriot Rodney "Rocket" Morris of the United States, 7-3, in the semifinal. He then stopped the giant killing ways of Zerna, 7-1, in the finals.

The victory gave Williams his 3rd international title in Korea and $15,000 for 1st place.

Zerna received a $5,000 runner-up paycheck.

The Bacolod-Dumaguete City based Zerna outclassed countryman Jundel "Jano" Mazon, 10-8, in the quarterfinals then subdued Joven "The Shark" Bustamante, 7-1, in the semifinal round.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Flyweight champ Donaire says Arce up next

CEBU CITY—REACTING TO A REPORT stating that popular Mexican Jorge "Travieso" Arce wants to fight him, world flyweight champion Nonito Donaire and his trainer father Nonito Sr. issued this statement: "Arce is next!"

DONAIRE AP

Although not looking past his Dec. 1 opponent Luis Maldonado, Nonito Jr. welcomed Arce's dare and hope the Mexican backs up his statement.

"Donaire is a great champion. Humble. He deserves my respect. He didn't say much. He just simply went in there and KO'd the big mouth Vic Darchinyan," Arce told Fightbeat.com. "If I get a chance to fight with him it will be a great fight. But believe me, it won't be like that fight he had with the fraud Vic Darhinyan."

Donaire stated that they were originally contacted to fight Arce, and the Fil-American champion had even tried bulking up to prepare for the Mexican warrior. However, by some mysterious twist, Donaire was told Arce will not be his next opponent but Maldonado.

Salven Lagumbay, Contributor

'Bakbakan' unveils third round today

THE BLOCKBUSTER NFGB *BAKBAKAN* National 10-stag derby, which has drawn 1,463, enters its third day of championship today at Araneta Coliseum with 80 fights on tap.

Attention will be focused on the Negros Occidental and Mindanao breeders with 4 and 4.5 points who will compete against top rated cockers of Metro Manila.

Accoding to National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) president Ricoy Palmares Jr., big prizes also await those who complete the finals with seven or eight points.

Action continues at Makati Coliseum on Saturday and Monday (Nov. 24 and 26) and at Araneta Coliseum (Nov. 27).

Ni top pick as GMA Cup starts

SUPER GRANDMASTERS NI HUA and Zhang Zhong head more than 20 foreign players seeing action in the Second President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Cup International Open chess championship starting today at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque City.

With China's top guns, including defending champion GM Zhang Pengxiang, competing in the World Chess Cup, Ni assumes top seeding with his Elo rating of 2641. Zhang, another Chinese now representing Singapore, follows with his Elo of 2634.

Another Chinese, GM Li Hao, is ranked third with his Elo of 2548.

Southeast Asian Games powerhouse Vietnam, Indonesia, and Iraq are also fielding entries, crowding out the Filipinos in the chase for the $6,000 champion's purse of the $40,000 event.

The Philippines' bid in the nine-round Swiss system tournament will be spearheaded by GMs Joey Antonio, Eugene Torre and Mark Paragua and rising star International Master Wesley So.

Also expected to fare well are IMs Oliver Dimakiling, Jayson Gonzales and Ronald Dableo, who is returning to competition after a nine-month lull.

Vietnam is sending GMs Nguyen Anh Dung Elo (2537) and GM Dao Thien Hai (2530).

Other Singaporeans in the fold are WGM Li Ruofan (Elo 2417) and WFMs Liu Yang (2056) and WFM Victoria Chan Wei-Yi (1879).

Leading Indonesia's charge are Tirto, Taufik Malay, Nathaniel Situru, Surya Wayudu, Farid Firman Syah and WIM Irine Kharisma Sukandar.

Iraq will field IM Saad Abdullah Sarsam, FM Noah Ali Hseein and Dilshad Emadal-din Muhammad.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero Pichay Jr. and Duty Free general manager Michael Kho will make the ceremonial moves during the 3 p.m. opening rite.

First round action starts right after the ceremony.

"As in the international tournaments that we have already hosted, we expect this year's competition to be just as successful," said Pichay, who is determined to produce more Filipino grandmasters before the year ends.

Already, Pichay has produced one GM in Darwin Laylo, who's the country's lone representative to the World Chess Cup set to start Nov. 24 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

After the PGMA Cup, the NCFP will stage the Pichay Cup International Open, a nine-round tournament set Dec. 1-8.

Roy Luarca

VICTORIOUS: Native Land (left panel) and jockey Jesse Guce top the 12th Marho Breeder's Cup Day which grossed more than P41.6-M at the Santa Ana Park. Native Land's connections (from left) trainer Anthony Henson, owner Tony Tan, breeder Alex Mamon and Guce celebrate with Marho officials led by president and Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos.

Domingo hopes 'Payback' will be stepping stone

MANDAUE CITY, CEBU—PHILIPPINE bantamweight champion Michael Domingo looks at the horizon and sees big things for himself in his chosen sport.

In fact, he is not afraid to mouth off his plans: He hopes to get into the ring against the best bantamweights in the world anytime next year in the hopes of snaring a world crown.

"I don't care who it is, I'll fight anyone within my weight class," said Domingo.

In the meantime, he has the chance to prove his worth: Domingo will face Anthony Matias of Tanzania as part of the fight card in the "Payback" event slated Dec. 2 at the Araneta Coliseum.

It will be the perfect stage to showcase his stuff and attract offers from current titleholders. The Payback card will be topped by Filipino superbantamweight prospect Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista, who will go up against Antonio "Barrio" Meza of Mexico in a bid to resucitate his gasping career.

Domingo plans to make the Mathias bout his final stepping stone in getting a crack at the world title.

There are four current bantamweight champs and one of them, World Boxing Organization (WBO) kingpin Gerry Peñalosa, is also a Filipino.

Hoizumi Hasegawa of Japan is the current World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight champion, Wladimir Sidorenko holds the World Boxing Association (WBA) crown and African Joseph Agbeko is the International Boxing Federation (IBF) ruler.

The 28-year-old Domingo is a 49-fight veteran who created a stir when he outpointed erstwhile undefeated Mexican Miguel Roman during the Philippines' 5-1 trashing of Mexico in the World Cup of Boxing.

Boxing fans from around the country will get the chance to watch the fights live through ABC 5 starting at 9:30 a.m.

Wushu worlds: Wang bags gold; Philippines finishes 7th

WANG: Ready for SEA Games.

WILLY WANG BAGGED A GOLD medal to lead the Philippines' seventh place finish in the recent 9th World Wushu Championship at the National Olympic Center in Beijing.

A previous world silver medalist, Wang finished on top this time, beating Indonesian Heriyanto in the Nan Quan event (Southern Fist style) of the meet that attracted nearly 1,000 wushu athletes from 89 countries.

Matsura Arata of Japan settled for the bronze medal.

The Philippines also came home with two silver and two bronze medals en route to seventh overall, a good indication of its readiness in the 24th SEA Games in Thailand next month.

Wang was a double gold medal winner in the 2005 Manila SEA Games.

Jennifer Lagilag and Mary Jane Estimar, who both competed in the women's sanshou 48 kg. and 52 kg., respectively, produced the silvers.

The bronze medals came from Marian Mariano (60 kg), also in women's sanshou, and Benjie Rivera (56 kg) in men's sanshou.

A native of Baguio City, Lagilag bested Naw Mar Htun of Myanmar in the semifinal but lost to Vietnamese Nguyen Thi Bich in the final match.

Estimar was outclassed in the championship round by Qin LiZi of China. She advanced to the finals with a victory over Farzaneh Dehgani Younarti of Iran.

Rivera was a gold medalist in the 52 kg class of the men's sanshou in the 2005 Vietnam edition, but competed this time in the 56 kg. division won by Zhang Shuai Ke of China.

Mariano finished behind Luong Thi Hoa of Vietnam and Zahra Karimi Vardanjani of Iran.

Inquirer Sports Staff

Sherwood tilt gets going

SHERWOOD HILLS CAPS ITS 2007 SEASON on a high note with the staging of the much awaited Chairman's Cup on Saturday in Trece Martirez, Cavite.

Sherwood Hills, which has one of Jack Nicklaus' favorite signature courses all over the globe, was voted by Golf Digest International (GDI), the world's No. 1 golf magazine, as the 85th best golf course outside of the US and No. 1 in Southeast Asia.

A couple of weeks after getting the GDI certificate, www.golf007.com, Asia's leader in golf website based in China, gave Sherwood Hills a four-star rating as one of the Asian region's top courses and a must-play in the Philippines

"The Chairman's Cup is our humble way of thanking the people who support us," said Sherwood Hills chair Robert John Sobrepeña.

Sobrepeña, will lead the 150 participants in a Filipino-fiesta theme one-day competition sponsored by Golforce Inc., Wilson Sports, Club Leisure, Custom Clubmakers, Veincare and Sports Specialist.

Also joining are sports and games committee chair Jimmy Borromero and tournament head Thirdy Escaño in the annual two-man team, best ball event.

Star-studded PBA Legends Tour up

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

FORMER PBA cager Abe King had both good news and bad when he called from Seattle, Washington last Sunday.

First the good news.

"The PBA Legends Tour to four cities in California will be truly, truly star-studded; a dream come true for PBA fans here in the United States," Abe said.

"No less than the Living Legend Sonny Jaworski has signed up for the Tour and so have PBA greats Mon Fernandez, Philip Cezar and coaches Baby Dalupan and Dante Silverio of arch rivals Crispa and Toyota."

The list, he said, grows longer and longer with every day that passes, what with many players offering their services even if they have to pay their own air-fare.

***

As of last count, the entourage was up to 25, according to Abe.

And to think that just last October, when he visited Manila to finalize arrangements, there were only a little more than 10 players on the list: Alvin Patrimonio, Allan Caidic, Samboy Lim, Jojo Lastimosa, Manny Victorino, Dindo Pumaren, Ronnie Magsanoc, Bong Ravena, Gerry Esplana, Vergel Meneses, Hector Calma and Jerry Codiñera.

This number has grown to include Olsen Racela,. Johnny Abarrientos, Dwight Lago, Jay Mendoza, Bong Alvarez, Art dela Cruz, and Bobby Jose.

The bad news isn't really bad, but Abe, who's chair of the PBA Legends USA Foundation ,will have to work harder to accommodate the 25-man entourage.

The foundation is shouldering all the expenses, which include air fare, board and lodging and per-game allowance.

***

"I'm thinking of tapping sponsors such as Philippine Airlines, *baka matulungan naman kami sa* air fare," Abe said.

"After all, the money that will be raised from the Legends Tour will be put to good use. The proposed projects of the foundation include medical and dental missions, scholarship grants, low-cost housing and basketball clinics, with the Filipinos in the Philippines as beneficiaries."

***

Since I last talked with acting PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios more than a week ago, there has only been one addition to the nominations for commissioner and three subtractions from the original six.

Businessman/player agent Arben Santos has declined for health and age reasons. Ateneo sports director Ricky Palou and NBA Asia's Carlo Singson also begged off.

Ricky said he has a commitment to Ateneo until 2010 and likewise Singson to NBA Asia.

The latest to be nominated was Ateneo coach Norman Black, who also declined because he has a commitment to the academe until year 2009.

***

All told, four of the seven people nominated have declined. The PBA is now left with the short list of Pato Gregorio, BAP-SBP executive director, Chito Salud and Lambert Ramos.

Sonny B. said the PBA board has until the end of office hours on Friday, Nov. 23, to submit more nominations.

He doesn't feel there will be an extension.

When the nominations have been closed, the selection committee composed of PBA chair Tony Chua of Red Bull, vice chair Joaqui Trillo of Alaska, treasurer Robert Non of San Miguel, governors Ricky Vargas of Talk and Text and Lito Alvarez of Air 21 will then proceed to interview the candidates.

Pagunsan seizes PGAP golf lead with 63

By Musong R. Castillo

JUVIC PAGUNSAN WAS NEAR FLAWless in shooting a five-under-par 63 yesterday to take a two-stroke lead over Orlan Sumcad and Elmer Salvador in the P1 million PGAP Challenge at Camp Aguinaldo.

The former caddy at Binitin in Bacolod, who is emerging as one of the stars of the Asian Tour, gunned down six birdies over the wet and muddy military layout to total 129 with 18 holes to play.

Sumcad, the 32-year-old who held the first-round lead with his version of a 63 on Tuesday, skied to a 69 after failing to judge his short game well. He fell into a second place tie with Salvador, who churned out a 65.

Former Philippine Open champion Cassius Casas also struggled, limping home with a 69 to be at 134, tied with obscure Ibarra Quiachon, who fired a 70.

The cut was pegged at 140 and among the notables who failed to advance were Benjie Magada and Juanito Pagunsan, Juvic's father.

A cool P300,000 awaits the winner of this event also being backed by Kim Yung-ho, Kim Koo-sik and Col. Reynaldo Ochosa, the general manager of Camp Aguinaldo. Second place is worth P110,000 and third P75,000.

Veteran Ruben Sasutil, after a 66, stood six shots off the lead at 135 like Randy Garalde (70) and Mario Manubay, who won the RP Open more than a decade back, who fired a 66.

BATTLE OF 'SLAM' GREATS

Federer scores first point

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—IF ROGER Federer expected an easy victory over his balding opponent, he found out early in their exhibition match that Pete Sampras still has his powerful serve.

The world's top-ranked player came back to beat the man he is chasing for the all-time Grand Slam titles record. Federer won, 6-4, 6-3, on Tuesday in the first of three Asian exhibitions. These tennis greats of the past and present meet again Thursday in Kuala Lumpur and Saturday in Macau.

"Pete was one of my idols growing up and it's great to play him," Federer said. "It wasn't easy for me; it wasn't easy for him as he's been retired five years. I am No. 1 and everyone expects me to win."

The 36-year-old Sampras brought cheers from the crowd at Seoul's Olympic Tennis Arena with two aces in his first service game against an opponent a decade younger. Sampras proceeded to break Federer's serve, then moved ahead 4-2 courtesy of a drop shot.

Sampras' trademark serves and volleys were on display, but he understandably moved around the court slower than he did during his 1990s heyday. Federer took advantage of a slew of unforced errors to come back to win the first set.

Other than three successive lobs that Federer served up to his opponent in the second game of the second set, the match was a competitive, though lighthearted, affair.

By early in the second set, Federer was hitting his stride. He completed the straight-set victory with little trouble.

Sampras retired in 2002, a year after the only previous meeting between the pair at Wimbledon. Federer won that fourth-round match in five sets.

Sampras won a record 14 Grand Slams, but Federer, who owns 12 titles, could break the mark in 2008.

"I have no plans to come back from retirement," Sampras said. "You have to come back for a reason. I just stay home and watch Roger win on television." *AP*

ROGER Federer of Switzerland (left) and Pete Sampras of the US will go at it two more times in a battle between the sport's leading Grand Slam champions. REUTERS

Manotoc leads AsPac tilt

TOMMY MANOTOC BIRDIED THE LAST hole to salvage an even par 72 and take the individual lead while powering the Philippines to the top in team play at the start of the 2007 Asia-Pacific Senior Amateur Golf Championship yesterday at Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City.

Manotoc nearly put to naught a stirring front-side stint of 33 as he fumbled with four bogeys at the back, including three straight from No. 11, before closing with his fourth birdie of the day on the tough Batangas course which used the Mt. Lobo and Mt. Malipunyo nines.

That gave the 57-year-old former national team mainstay, now the Calatagan Golf Club manager, a two-stroke lead over defending individual champion Rodney Baltrop of New Zealand, who bogeyed the last two holes for a 74 and dropped into joint second with Australian Brian Sams in the 54-hole championship.

Iggy Clavecilla, the reigning back-to-back national seniors champion and Manotoc's teammate in RP Team I, carded a 75 for joint fourth with three others in the individual play even as the Philippines took a three-stroke lead over Australia and Korea in the team competition with a 147 aggregate.

TOP MARATHONERS: 2007 Milo Marathon champions Cresenciano Sabal (right) and Flordeliza Carreon raise their trophies on the podium, where they were joined by Milo executives and race officials.

Guam race gives young rider shot at representing RP

KENNETH San Andres shows off his stuff.

WHEN IT COMES TO MOtocross, Kenneth San Andres has shown that he is already the next big star in the country.

He is now out to prove that he is the next big name for the country.

San Andres will represent the Philippines in the FIM Asia-Pacific Series on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 in the American territory of Guam, his biggest stint so far outside of the junior ranks.

San Andres, who used to dominate the junior division, recently graduated into performing against grizzled race veterans in the premier Pro Open of the Any Sunday MX Series at the Fast Track Circuit in Taguig City.

Last week, he cemented his reputation as motocross' hottest new star by emerging as overall Pro Open champion of the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association-sanctioned series.

And the names he left biting dust were no regular riders.

San Andres, a many-time Philippine Sportswriters Association awardee, won the first heat as he pulled away from his rivals Glenn Aguilar and Jimboy Marcelo.

A spill, however, in the second race had Aguilar securing the win, preventing San Andres from scoring a double triumph.

Inquirer Sports Staff

Uy, 2 others grab BMW world slots

JERRY UY, VIC EUSEBIO AND ROsalie Heo will represent the Philippines in the BMW Golf Cup world final in Sydney after topping a weeklong series of qualifying tournaments at the Eagle Ridge Aoki course.

Uy scored 40 points to top Class A by two points over Windy Imperial and Gerald Katigbak who made 37.

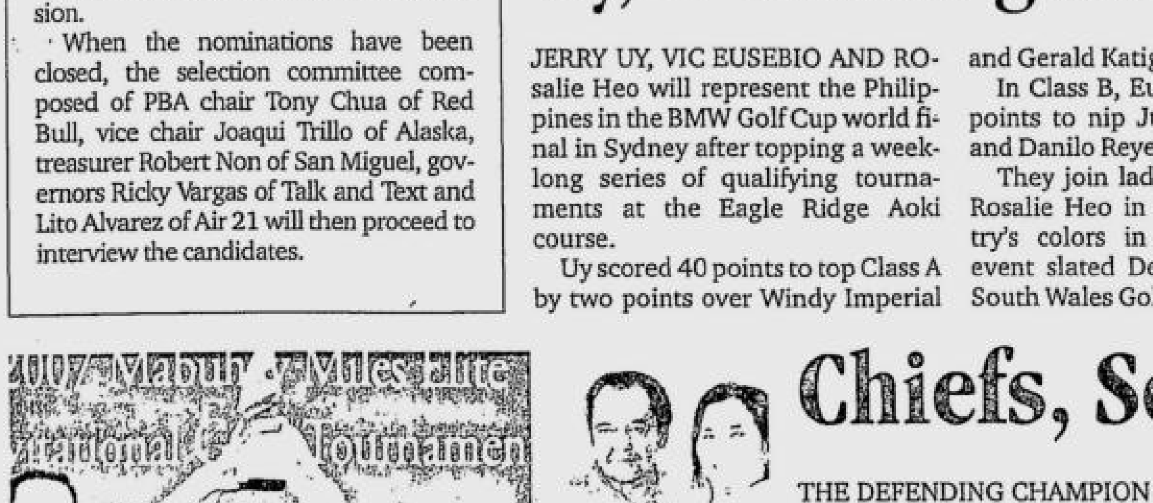
In Class B, Eusebio also fired 40 points to nip Julius Reyes by one and Danilo Reyes (37 points).

They join ladies division winner Rosalie Heo in carrying the country's colors in the amateur golf event slated Dec. 3-8 at the New South Wales Golf Club.

Heo produced 34 points to beat Theresa Arevalo (33 points).

The BMW Golf Cup International is composed of more than 150,000 participants from 40 countries,

Last year, Philippine representatives Anthony Duay, Danilo Mercado and Virgie Bote wound up second in the Nations Cup team event.



MABUHAY CHAMPS: Businessman Augusto Theodore de Jesus receives his Mabuhay Miles Invitational golf tournament trophy from Henry So Uy (left) and executive vice president of organizer Philippine Airlines, and Babsie Aragon, PAL assistant vice president. Right panel shows ladies division champion Lanie Verar receiving her trophy from PAL senior vice president Capt. Julio Hernandez.

Chiefs, Sea Horses score

THE DEFENDING CHAMPION ARELLANO University Chiefs and the PATTS School of Aeronautics Sea Horses came through with impressive starts yesterday in the 15th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament.

The Chiefs wasted no time in putting away City Colleges of Manila, 63-52, at the Arellano Legarda gym. The Sea Horses turned back the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars, 72-71.

Six-foot-four rookie Adrian Celada and Gio Ciriacruz led the Leo Isaac-coached Chiefs with nine points apiece.

"Most of our players are in their first year. This is a learning process for the new guys," said Isaac.

Meanwhile, James Abugan scored only 10 points, but his drive off an interception play found its mark with 42 ticks to go, giving the Sea Lions the upper hand at 72-69.

The Sea Horses' press slowed down the Jaguars, who came to within a point on Jobert Manguera's jumper with 36 seconds left.

The Jaguars had a chance to win after a missed shot by Abugan, but Mark Lozada flubbed twice, allowing the Sea Horses to escape with the win.

A Public Health Service by:
RiteMED™
Right Medicine Priced Right™
Trusted Quality Healthcare
Sulit na Gamot, sa Sulit na Presyo!

Product		Suggested Retail Price	% Savings vs Leading Brand
ANTI-HYPERTENSION			
DILTIAZEM*	60 mg tab x 30	P 8.70	71%
	60 mg tab x 50	P 12.25	72%
METOPROLOL*	50 mg tab x 100	P 2.60	23%
	100 mg tab x 100	P 4.85	21%
ATENOLOL*	50 mg tab x 100	P 6.65	18%
ENALAPRIL*	5 mg tab x 100	P 12.25	53%
	10 mg tab x 100	P 14.50	50%
ANTI-CHOLESTEROL			
SIMVASTATIN*	20 mg tab x 30	P 20.15	53%
	40 mg tab x 30	P 27.00	37%
ANTI-DIABETES			
GLICLAZIDE*	80 mg tab x 100	P 5.90	56%
METFORMIN*	500 mg tab x 100	P 4.00	58%
	850 mg tab x 100	P 7.15	61%
ANTI-ASTHMA			
SALBUTAMOL*	2 mg syr x 60mL	P 43.60	60%
	2 mg tab x 100	P 1.90	73%
ANTI-INFECTIVES			
CEFALEXIN*	250 mg cap x 100	P 11.25	51%
	500 mg cap x 100	P 19.00	56%
	125 mg susp x 60mL	P 87.50	59%
	250 mg susp x 60mL	P 159.50	55%
	100 mg drops x 10mL	P 94.25	38%
CEFACLOR*	250 mg cap x 30	P 42.60	47%
	500 mg cap x 30	P 78.25	25%
	125 mg susp x 30mL	P 138.25	70%
	125 mg susp x 105mL	P 338.25	27%
	50 mg drops x 20 mL	P 235.75	14%
CLOXACILLIN*	500 mg cap x 100	P 15.80	74%
AMOXICILLIN*	250 mg cap x 100	P 4.60	29%
	500 mg cap x 100	P 6.15	43%
	250 mg susp x 60mL	P 69.25	3%
ERYTHROMYCIN*	250 mg tab x 100	P 7.45	62%
	500 mg tab x 100	P 16.50	50%
COTRIMOXAZOLE*	800/160 mg tab x 100	P 19.65	40%
FOR MIGRAINE, TOOTHACHE & DYSMENORRHEA			
MEFENAMIC ACID	250 mg tab x 100	P 3.40	72%
	•500 mg tab x 100	P 6.00	76%
VITAMIC C			
ASCORBIC ACID	500 mg tab x 100	P 1.35	77%
ANTI-ANEMIA			
IRON + FOLIC ACID	187mg/600 mcg tab	P 1.10	94%
FOR FEVER AND FLU			
PARACETAMOL	500 mg tab x 100	P 1.00	72%
	120 mg syr	P 29.85	65%
FOR DIARRHEA			
LOPERAMIDE	2 mg cap x 100	P 3.70	73%
COUGH			
AMBROXOL	15 mg syr x 60mL	P 40.50	48%
	15 mg syr x 120mL	P 75.25	37%
	30 mg syr x 60mL	P 52.75	52%
	30 mg syr x 120mL	P 93.50	45%
	30 mg tab x 100	P 4.35	56%

AVAILABLE AT:
mercury drug (NATIONWIDE)

* This product is classified by the Bureau of Food and Drugs as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a doctor's prescription. Consult your doctor.

FINDING the lane porous all night long, San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker proves too fast and too slippery for the Atlanta Hawks. AP

Parker powers Spurs

Nowitzki triples fuel Mavs home streak

ATLANTA—TONY PARKER SCORED 31 POINTS AND made nine assists to lead the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs to a 95-83 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday.

Manu Ginobili added 19 points for the Spurs but the Argentine Olympic champion said Parker had been the difference between the two sides.

"He got to the basket and made plays that only he can make," said Ginobili. "Atlanta was worried about our shooting from the perimeter, so it opened up the lane for him. He's so fast that he's hard to contain."

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had a season-high 32 points and a perfect ending in Dallas' highest-scoring quarter of the season, helping the Mavericks put together a record-setting rally during a 105-99 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night.

Nowitzki hit four straight three-pointers in the final 1:41 of the third quarter, when Dallas went ahead to stay after overcoming a 24-point deficit. The Mavericks finished their four-game homestand undefeated and are 6-0 at home this season.

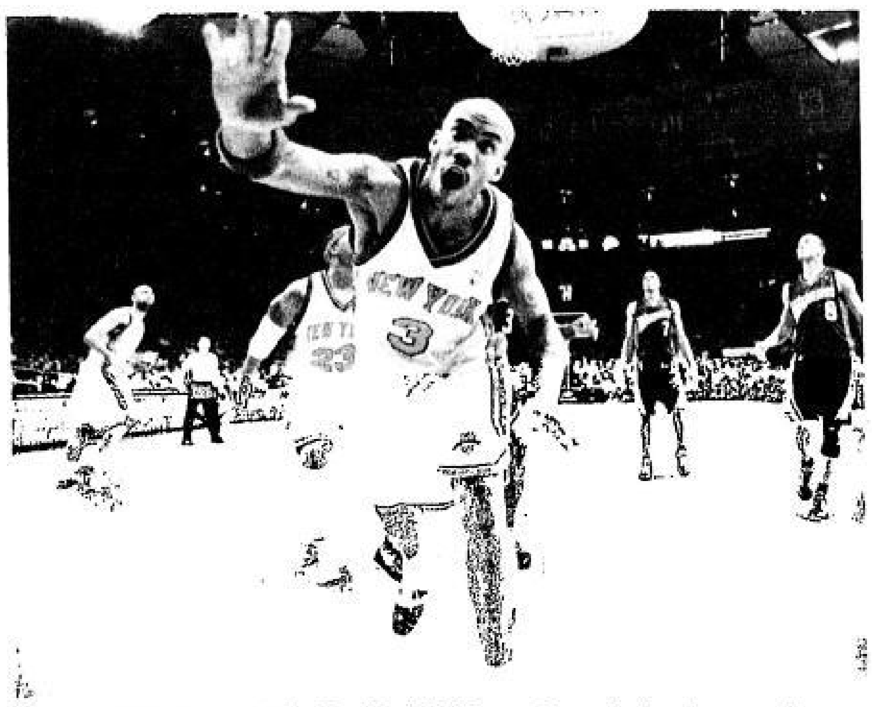
In New York, Baron Davis had 31 points, seven assists and six rebounds, and Golden State ruined Stephon Marbury's return to the lineup with a 108-82 victory.

The Knicks have lost seven straight. Marbury scored 18 points, but the Knicks were never in the game in the second half and were booed often over the final three quarters. So was coach Isiah Thomas, who saw no results from his decision to demote Marbury last week and heard "Fire Isiah!" cries on a few occasions during the game.

Reuters, AP

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: San Antonio 95, Atlanta 83; LA Lakers 134, Indiana 114; Milwaukee 111, Cleveland 107; Washington 116, Philadelphia 101; Golden State 108, New York 82; Dallas 105, Toronto 99; Denver 112, Chicago 91; Phoenix 100, Sacramento 98

GAME TODAY (*Basketball TV*)
8:30 a.m.—Golden State vs Boston
(replay @ 9 p.m.)



STEPHON Marbury and the New York Knicks continue spiraling downward. REUTERS

Drugs send Tyson back to jail—for a day

PHOENIX—MIKE TYSON REPORTED to jail Tuesday, an open-air facility near a dog pound and trash dump where he'll serve a one-day sentence for a DUI conviction.

The former heavyweight champion will be held in a secluded part of Tent City, apart from the 1,500 other inmates. Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who runs the jail, said Tyson still must wear the jail-issue pink underwear and black-and-white striped jumpsuit.

Besides the day in jail, Tyson was sentenced to three years' probation. He also must perform 360 hours of community service and undergo drug testing.

The 41-year-old boxer pleaded guilty Sept. 24 to one count of felony cocaine possession and one misdemeanor count of driving under the influence. The charges stem from his arrest last year after leaving a Scottsdale club.

Officers stopped Tyson when they spotted him driving erratically. Police said they saw Tyson brush a white powder off his dashboard, and they found baggies of cocaine in Tyson's pockets and in his car.

Tyson faced a maximum sentence of four years and three months in prison. Prosecutors recommended a one-year sentence, but the judge said the boxer has tried to atone for his crimes.

AP

NEW SUZUKI
ALTO
let's go
The global compact car
ALTO
SUZUKI
Way of Life!
3 YEARS WARRANTY 100,000

Affordable
Light on gas
Technology from Japan
Outstanding value for money

Now with easy-to-own payment schemes!*

Minimum of 15% down payment

Up to 72 months payment terms

Lowest monthly amortization on 50% down payment
₱4, 293 (De Luxe) ₱3, 872 (Standard)

* For details please visit your nearest Suzuki dealer now!

Price* starts at only ₱359,000
*FOB Manila

METRO MANILA: **SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH** Prince Motor Corporation 951-2201 to 10 / 453-9316 to 20 • **SUZUKI AUTO EDSA** Pilhino Sales Corporation 634-3451 to 57 / 634-0031 / 634-0032 / 634-0034 • **SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN** Matrix Motor Corporation 364-9093 / 365-6098 / 365-3011 / 365-7796 • **SUZUKI AUTO MANILA BAY** Wheels Inc. 556-1485 / 556-1487 • **SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI** Heidelberg Motor Corporation 816-4097 / 810-1736 / 810-1737 • **SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE.** Sunny Motors Group, Inc. 374-3911 / 411-2720 • **SUZUKI AUTO SHAW** The Shaw Motor Plaza Corporation 718-1834 to 35

PROVINCIAL: **SUZUKI AUTO BACOLOD** Automall Motor Sales (034) 435-0268 • **SUZUKI AUTO CABANATUAN** Prince Motor Corporation (044) 463-5248 / 463-0089 • **SUZUKI AUTO CEBU** Cebu Autocentrale Corporation (032) 345-8893 / 346-0024 • **SUZUKI AUTO DAGUPAN** Amianan Motors (075) 517-1717 / 8888 / 9999 • **SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO** Motormall Davao Corporation (082) 233-1140 / 234-0390 / 234-0646 • **SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO** Iloilo Car Corporation (033) 320-7020 • **SUZUKI AUTO LAGUNA** Areza Motor Sales (02) 520-6725 / (049) 411-1079 / 411-1060 • **SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI** Lisam Motors (054) 472-3577 / (02) 250-8034 • **SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA** Family Cars, Inc. (045) 860-5971 / 961-3573 / 961-7746 • **SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA** Arcef Marketing, Inc. (062) 991-1492 / 993-1213

Please visit Suzuki Website: www.suzuki.com.ph

www.koreanair.com
Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World
Excellence in Flight
KOREAN AIR
Reservation Center, Manila: 893-4909

BUSINESS

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

NASA XTEND ANG SWERTE MO!
Angbawat P100 ng Petron Xtend Autogas, 1 raffle coupon na. Maraming papremyo buwan-buwan. May dalawang Toyota Avanza pa sa grand draw!
BIYAHENG BIGTIME

IN THIS ISSUE

- **PDS gets** P150-M shot in the arm courtesy of SGX /B3
- **DA** distributes flatbed dryers to rice farmers /B6

Oil hits $99/barrel on supply worries

Dollar plumbs new low as Opec output fuels anxieties

SEOUL—OIL YESTERDAY SOARED TO RECORD HIGHS, DRAWING within a hair's breadth of the $100 milestone as the US dollar plumbed new lows and the onset of cold weather in the United States stirred anxiety over winter supplies.

US light crude for January delivery surged to a record of $99.29 a barrel early in the session, but pared those gains to stand at $98.64 by early yesterday afternoon.

Prices blasted past the previous $98.62 a barrel record, extending a rally that has lifted oil more than 40 percent since August, as funds buy in on the weakening dollar and concerns that limited Opec supplies will squeeze winter supplies.

"Oil prices have every reason to rise," said Koo Ja-kown, crude analyst at Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC). "Speculative money is coming into the market as the dollar is weakening. On top of that, there are supply concerns for winter fuel."

Oil has been rising inversely to the dollar over the past months amid a fever of speculative trading.

The falling dollar helps protect demand for oil in nondollar economies and could prompt Opec producers to sustain a higher price to offset the reduced purchasing power of petrodollar revenues.

The dollar dropped to a new record low against the euro and versus a basket of currencies on Wednesday, after the US Federal Reserve cut its growth outlook for next year, keeping alive hopes for another interest rates cut in December.

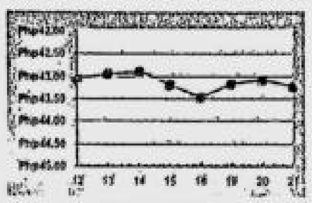
"The main reason behind the (rise) is the weak dollar against Asian currencies," said Rob Subbaraman, strategist at Lehman Brothers. "We expect the weak dollar to continue for a fair bit, so this is not a short-term issue."

Yesterday, Senate President Manuel Vil-

OIL HITS/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



NOVEMBER

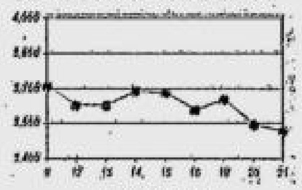
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P43.27 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 21, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



NOVEMBER

Shares close 0.9% lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.9 percent lower, dragged down by concern that blue-chip San Miguel Corp. could soon be venturing into areas outside its core businesses, dealers said.

Nervousness among investors about troubles in the US banking and housing sectors, and surging crude oil prices also helped push

SHARES/ B3

PSEi seen to breach 4,000-point mark by end-2007

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange composite index (PSEi) is expected to wind up the year with a record high—breaching the 4,000-point mark—despite surging global market volatility arising from the property downturn in the United States, according to investment experts of Sun Life Financial Philippines.

"The stock market is taking its cue on what's happening in the Philippine economy," SLFP vice president and chief investment officer Michael Manuel yesterday said, adding that the PSEi could even reach 4,200 points.

Manuel said in a briefing that the PSEi at present is fairly valued at 3,800 points.

Although the country's domestic growth story is supporting stock prices, fund managers toward the end of the year are expected to load up for their portfolios for the following year, he said.

During the term of President Fidel V. Ramos and prior to the Asian crisis, Manuel said, the PSEi had surged to 3,400 in step with the country's economy, which also grew up to 6 percent.

Ten years after the Asian crisis, local stocks have rebounded, with the main-share index peaking at 3,873.

The country likewise posted a growth of over 7 percent in the first semester, its strongest performance in 20 years.

Manuel noted that local stock market liquidity, as measured by daily turnover, had gone back to pre-Asian crisis levels of $100 million after falling to as low as $11 million in 2003.

However, the daily value turnover

PSEI SEEN/ B2

TOYOTA GREAT UPGREATS! 2
Buy a Toyota now and get a chance to bring home not 1 but 2 great cars!*

1.6 G A/T
Get a chance to win an ALTIS when you buy a YARIS
LOW DOWN PAYMENT P71,300**
LOW MONTHLY P6,430***

2.4 G A/T
Get a chance to win a CAMRY when you buy an ALTIS
LOW DOWN PAYMENT P72,300**
LOW MONTHLY P6,579***

2.0 G Gas A/T
Get a chance to win an INNOVA when you buy an AVANZA
LOW DOWN PAYMENT P77,800**
LOW MONTHLY P7,166***

4x2 2.7 L
Get a chance to win a FORTUNER when you buy an INNOVA
LOW DOWN PAYMENT P76,300**
LOW MONTHLY P7,429***

TOYOTA 500 THOUSAND Vehicles Sold Since 1989

Get up to P50,000 TOYOTA SAVINGS PLUS
for the Yaris A/T & M/T, Altis, Avanza 1.5 G A/T & M/T, Innova E Gas A/T & M/T, and P30,000 for all other Innova variants.
The Toyota Savings Plus can be used for accessories, chattel mortgage, LTO registration, discounts or TFS Financing Packages.

or 0% INTEREST on our great financing packages
For specific financing terms only.
Valid if down payment and monthly amortization is paid in full.
Financing is subject to TFS approval.

* Four Toyota buyers nationwide will get a chance to win in the raffle promo.
Deadline for submission of entries: November 30, 2007

** 10 % DOWN PAYMENT
Yaris 1.5 M/T
Altis 1.6 J M/T
Avanza 1.5 G M/T
Innova 2.0 J M/T

*** 50 % DP, 72 months
Yaris 1.5 M/T
Altis 1.6 J M/T
Avanza 1.5 G M/T
Innova 2.0 J M/T

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5840 Series of 2007.

Promo Period is from November 7 - 30, 2007.
Grand Draw is on December 12, 2007.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., 807-0707 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICUTAN PARAÑAQUE, 777-9500 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC., (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 / (088) 858-7770 / (08822) 737-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE, (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 / (02) 529-8116 sales direct / (02) 529-8132 sales fax TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC., 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, (045) 961-1188 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 717-0707 to 08 TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

www.toyota.com.ph

TOYOTA moving forward

Mystery of Pall Mall prices

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SOMETHING IN THE "PALL MALL" TAX issue still puzzles members of the House of Representatives' ways and means committee.

And that is, well, the enormous price difference between the imported "Pall Mall" brand of cigarettes and the supposedly locally made "Pall Mall."

Actually, the committee is investigating the Department of Finance's decision to lower the excise tax on "Pall Mall," from P26, set by the BIR, to P5 per pack, set by British American Tobacco, owner of the cigarette brand.

A BIR survey showed that the imported "Pall Mall" was sold at a retail price of P34 per pack (minus the excise tax), while BAT priced the local version at P12 per."

The "cost variance" was almost 600 percent. Wow!

In the committee hearing, it was noted that global brands, such as "Pall Mall," have to maintain high quality standards to preserve its international reputation.

In other words, it was unthinkable for BAT to scrimp on the cost of producing the local "Pall Mall" so that it could hack the retail price by that much.

Let me guess what the committee was trying to drive at: The amazingly low local price of P12 per pack should only put "Pall Mall" in the lowest excise tax category for cigarettes.

Now, once the DOF set the excise tax at P5 per pack (versus the P26 set by the BIR), which the DOF already tried to do, what would then prevent BAT from raising the retail price later on all the way up to heaven?

The BAT position was that, well, nobody could stop it!

* * *

BIR Commissioner Lilian Hefti actually attended the committee hearing, and she said that the controversial DOF order to lower the "Pall Mall" tax rate will result in less revenue for this administration.

Whether or not the Lola at the Palace is even aware of that, we can only wonder.

Hefti noted that, for one, the lower tax rate would allow BAT to gobble the market of higher priced (and with higher tax rate) cigarette brands.

Based on BIR estimates, the government could easily lose cigarette tax revenues of about P60 million a year from "Pall Mall" alone ... thanks to the DOF!

And the DOF, ladies and gentlemen, is the outfit that only exists to raise revenue for this fiscally challenged administration.

* * *

IT seems that the Senate and the House are going toward opposite direction in their separate investigation of the P665-million overprice of coal supplies, allegedly perpetrated by top officials of our beloved Napocor.

As you know, militant groups have filed criminal and administrative charges with the Ombudsman against the officials, including Napocor president Cyrill del Callar, vice president for logistics Eduardo Eroy, vice president and bids committee chair Carlos Guadarama, and management committee secretariat head Urbano Mendiola.

Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni said his office would start its investigation immediately.

Certain senators nevertheless are pushing for the Joint Congressional Power Commission to conduct an independent inquiry into the reported overpricing.

Again, that's the JOINT commission.

But over at the House, in which one member is rumored to be a beneficiary of the coal overpricing, the energy committee struck on its own by calling for a hearing—on rather short notice—apparently to preempt the joint commission.

I hear that, now, some senators want to call for Del Callar to take a leave while the Ombudsman is investigating the overpricing case.

* * *

NAPOCOR made at least three bulk orders of coal early this year, paying prices double the prevailing market rates at that time.

And then, party-list Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. also warned that another coal contract appears to be in the works this month.

For those three orders, Napocor paid $84 per metric ton, although the regular price of coal then was only $20 to $30 per metric ton.

It was estimated that the overpricing could reach P665 million easily.

What was interesting was that Napocor entered into a "negotiated" (i.e., no bidding) contract with an Australian firm at that amazing price of $84 a ton.

The firm is Hunter Valley Coal Corp. Pty. Ltd., whose local representative is Glencore Far East Philippines AG.

Napocor issued the tender for the coal supplies on March 29 this year.

Whadayano: The usually slow Napocor awarded the contract to the Australian group after only three days. Such speed!

Don't tell me that Napocor suddenly became so efficient that it wrapped up something that usually took it several months to do.

Guess what? We, the consumers, must now pay for such newfound, er, "efficiency" of Napocor.

* * *

OH, NO, this may yet be another failed bidding.

As you know, to cover for the shortfall in revenue collection, this cash-strapped administration is privatizing everything left and right.

On the block is the 60-percent ownership of PNOC-EDC, the state firm controlling 60 percent of our geothermal generating capacity, producing roughly 1,000 megawatts (MW) worth of steam and about 700MW of electricity.

This administration expects to raise P36 billion from the sale of PNOC-EDC.

From the original 25 groups, the number of interested bidders has gone to 10 groups, namely, Alsons, Aboitiz, International Power, San Miguel, First Gen, Ashmore Energy, Avenue Asia, Reyjavik Energy, Filinvest Group and Greysir Green Energy.

But some of the groups are threatening to withdraw from the bidding.

For one, they do not like the provision in the bidding that will allow "open-ended renegotiation" of the terms of the contract, even after a winner has been declared.

For another, the company actually still does not have the government permits for the business.

Interested bidders noted PNOC-EDC actually has expiring service contracts, which precisely are the assets that the investors are after.

Moreover, its contract with the government for the sale of the steam is no longer "take-or-pay" basis, which is disadvantageous to PNOC-EDC's eventual investor.

Bidding or no bidding—that is now the question.

PSEi seen to breach 4,000-point mark ...

From page B1

is still low compared to the $301 million level presently seen in Indonesia, and $353 million in Thailand.

He said global financial markets would remain volatile, resulting in sporadic aversion to assets from emerging markets like the Philippines.

But, with every market dip, there is that chance to load up on equities, he added.

Manuel identified four major growth drivers that, in turn, would favor the local stock market.

First is the government's fiscal consolidation, which had allowed the state for the first time in many years to lead economic growth through its infrastructure spending.

He added that interest rates had remained very low, offering a conducive environment for the private sector to expand investments.

When interest rates are low, people tend to shift funds from fixed income instruments to equities in search of higher yields.

The ample liquidity in the financial system would also allow banks to fund economic expansion going forward, he noted.

Manuel added that remittances from overseas Filipino workers remain strong.

Manuel said the favorable fundamentals behind the local stock market's rise remained intact, although the spillover effects of the US subprime crisis trimmed market gains in the early part of the third quarter.

He added that the stock market is still supported by the country's economic growth in consecutive quarters.

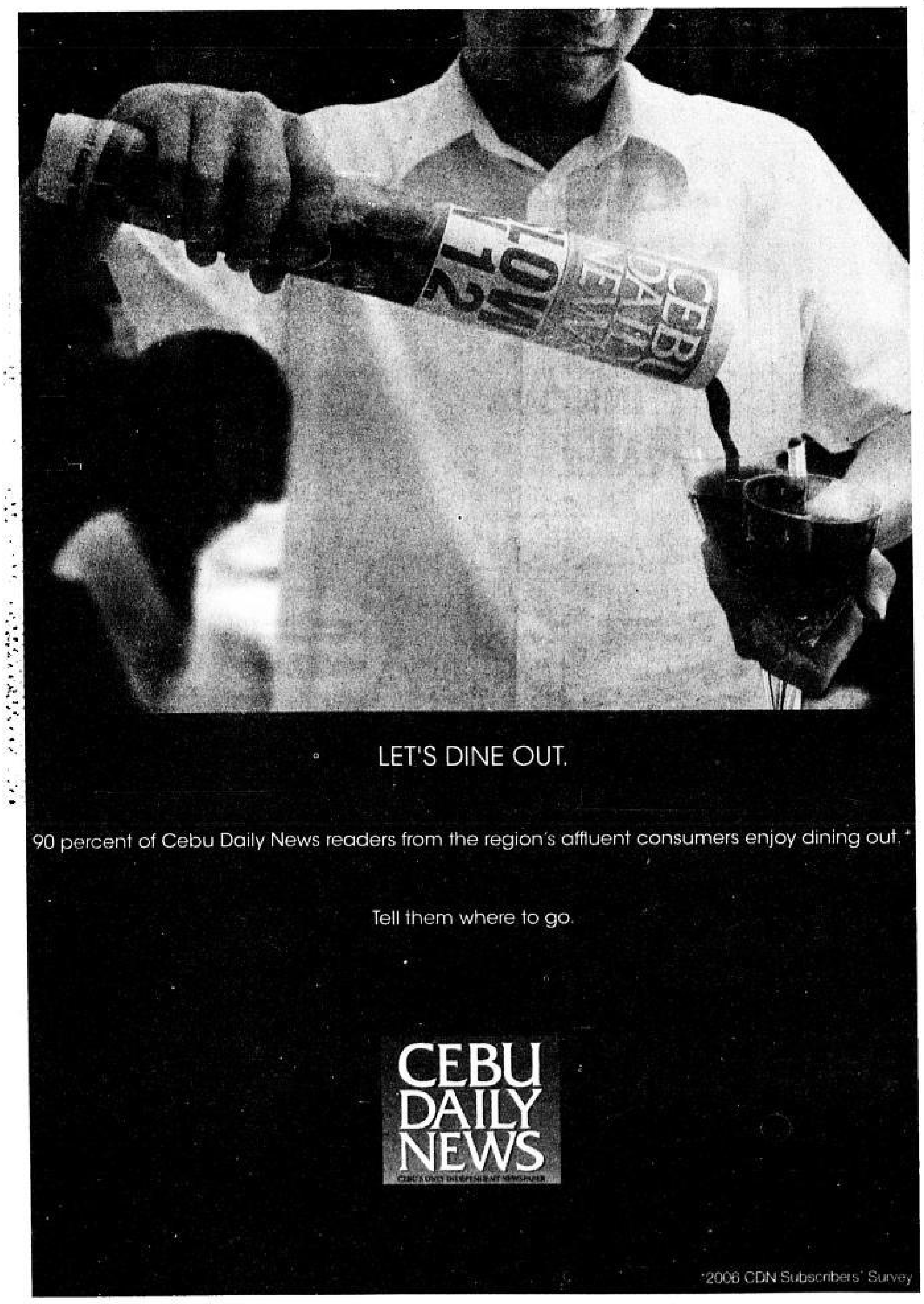
The root cause of the market turmoil in the United States was the housing recession triggered by delinquencies among subprime mortgages or housing loans to borrowers with blemished credit history and little equity.

Manuel said a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve is not likely capable of reversing the collapse in the subprime mortgage market.

"At best, recent Fed actions limit further losses and put a floor on global markets," he said.

"But global banking system can ride out the storm. There is a need to segregate financial sector from the real economy."

HARRIET Business School
The Career Academy
Your Best Choice for a Successful Career
Accredited by
(MOM License No 07400010)
WORK & STUDY
UK MANAGEMENT TRAINEE PROGRAM (Full-Time/Part-Time)
EARN US$30,000* & get the World Recognized British Professional qualification at the same time.
EVERYONE CAN JOIN* University Degree Holders from recognised University with 3 yrs of working experiences.
Special Benefits
✓ 98% applicants get a high paying job right away*
✓ Option to work in U.K for One year
✓ Work in Exciting Places - 5 Star Hotels, Country Club, banks, airport, resort, etc
✓ Fast Career advancement to Managerial position*
✓ Professional Makeover by Shiseido experts
✓ Guaranteed monthly gross salary at least US$1,200
✓ Advance Standing to Bachelor & Master Degree
* Terms & conditions apply
Don't Miss!
Almost FULL HOUSE
Call 7264324 Now or email us
sn.ang@harrietgroup.com
Prior registration required
Late comers strictly not allowed.
We reserve the right to deny entry.
FREE SEMINAR
27 Nov 07 (Tue) at 10am
29 Nov 07 (Thu) at 1.30pm
Giardino Room, Bayview Park Hotel, Manila.
Earn more than US$2,000* monthly



CEBU DAILY NEWS
LOW 12
LET'S DINE OUT.
90 percent of Cebu Daily News readers from the region's affluent consumers enjoy dining out.*
Tell them where to go.
CEBU DAILY NEWS
CEBU'S ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
*2006 CDN Subscribers' Survey

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Various Philippine Navy Projects

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Lot-1 Supply and Delivery of Spare Parts of US Made M-35 Trucks	Php 2,815,000.00	November 23, 2007 9:00, AM	December 5, 2007, 9:00 AM	Php 3,000.00
Lot 3 Supply and Delivery of 1. One Thousand (1,000) Sets BDA with HBT Cap 2. Five Hundred (500) ea Poncho, Olive Drab 3. One Thousand (1,000) ea Back Pack Olive Drab	Php 3,521,460.00			Php 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **Various Philippine Navy Projects**. Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*, Monday** to **Friday**.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Mentioned in Para 1*. The method of payment will be ***in the form of cash***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***November 23, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City**.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***December 5, 2007, 9:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. **Bid opening** shall be on ***December 5, 2007, 9:00 AM*** at **Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
*Contact Person: **CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PN BAC

(PDI--November 22, 2007)

PDS gets ₱150-M shot in the arm courtesy of SGX

Singapore bourse to buy Philippine Dealing System shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE DEALING SYSTEM Holdings Corp. is getting P150 million in fresh equity infusion from Singapore Exchange Ltd. (SGX), Asia Pacific's first demutualized integrated stocks and derivatives exchange.

"With this investment, the capital structure of PDS will reflect its planned partnership with strategic institutions, which include the Bankers' Association of the Philippines, whose members are major trading participants and agents for settlement, the Philippine Stock Exchange, for common interest in capital market governance, information technology and new product offerings, and SGX, for regional collaboration and derivatives expertise," PDS said in a disclosure yesterday.

SGX had agreed in principle to subscribe to new PDS shares subject to regulatory requirements.

The PSE's recent additional investment of P70 million completed the P500 million initial capitalization of PDS.

The shareholders also approved the increase in capitalization to P750 million, representing the second round of capital-raising, of which P150 million was offered to SGX.

PDS, through its subsidiaries, provides trading, settlement and depository services for the local currency government securities inter-dealer market. Apart from overseeing the market, it also provides the trading platform for the inter-bank foreign exchange spot market. It is the sole agency that calculates the official interest rate and spot foreign exchange benchmarks.

The other shareholders of PDS include Tata Consulting Services Pte. Ltd., Computershare Technology Services (Phils.) Inc., San Miguel Corp., Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co., Development Bank of the Philippines, the Social Security System, Financial Executive Institute of the Philippines, and the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines.

Currently, PDS is in the process of integrating the specialized inter-dealer market with the broader institutional and retail markets. It will list and allow trading of debt issues for corporate and financial institutions and foreign currency denominated Philippine Government Securities, or ROPs.

Also, it will offer new trading platforms, supporting securities borrowing and lending, repurchase agreements and forward transactions to improve liquidity in the market.

SGX was established in 1999 following the merger of the Stock Exchange of Singapore and the Singapore International Monetary Exchange. Its shares are listed on its own bourse.

Shares close 0.9% lower

From page B1

the key index to its lowest level in nearly two months, they said.

The composite index finished down 30.12 points to 3,510.49.

It was the index's lowest close since Sept. 26 when it settled at 3,475.75.

The broader all-share index fell 23.30 points to 2,140.43.

There were 80 decliners and 24 advancers, while 58 stocks were steady.

A total of 2.4 billion shares valued at P3.8 billion ($87.98 million) changed hands.

San Miguel, Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage group, said it would take part in yesterday's auction for the 60-percent stake in Philippine National Oil Corp-Energy Development Corp.

"The selldown could be partly due to concerns about San Miguel's foray into areas where it has no experience," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development Corp. "It also reflects the generally cautious sentiment in the market today."

US stocks ended mostly higher Tuesday as investors interpreted the lower economic growth forecast for 2008 as another reason for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates again. *AFP*

From the Ivatans of Batanes to the Tawi-tawians of Tawi-tawi

Unites the Filipino

JRS EXPRESS
SINCE 1960

Serving the Filipino since 1960
www.jrs-express.com

CAMP JOHN HAY
GOLF CLUB

NOTICE OF AUCTION

Please be advised that Camp John Hay Golf Club, Inc. will be holding an Auction Sale of delinquent certificates on –

November 27, 2006
Tuesday, 10:00 AM
At the 2nd Floor Fine Dine
Camp John Hay Golf Club
Baguio City

** Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m.*

For further inquiries and updates, you may contact the following telephone numbers from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:

Manila Office : 02 687 5279 or 687 6524
Baguio Office : 074 444 2132 or 444 2133

Thank you.

ATTY. MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN
Chairman
Membership Committee

Camp John Hay Golf Club, PO Box 1141 Loakan Rd., Baguio City, Philippines • Phone (6374) 444-2581 • E-mail [illegible]
Manila Office: Unit 1107 A, 11th Floor West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Road, Ortigas Center Pasig City
Phone (632) 687-6607/ 687-6710/687-0351 • Fax (632) 687-5279 • Website www.campjohnhay.com
Managed by Camp John Hay Leisure Corporation

Now to be held in Cubao, Quezon City !
A seminar for property owners, buyers, brokers & developers !!
TAXATION OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS
Dec 10, 1:30-6 pm, Max's Rest., Gateway Mall, Araneta Cntr, Cubao, QC
Covers what you should know about property assessments & transfer taxes by LGU's; capital gains tax, withholding tax, latest rules on value added tax, documentary stamp tax, donors & estate taxes; other registration expenses & taxes to pay, basis of & how to compute; datelines & where to pay; BIR forms; exemptions from capital gains & other taxes; how to distinguish capital assets from ordinary assets and its significance; latest Revenue Regulations & updates, etc.
For more details, call 681-0928 or 796-8019 Or simply text your fax no. or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174 or 0921-683-9431 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph or urbanet.ph@gmail.com
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

MAKE YOUR ₱ GROW

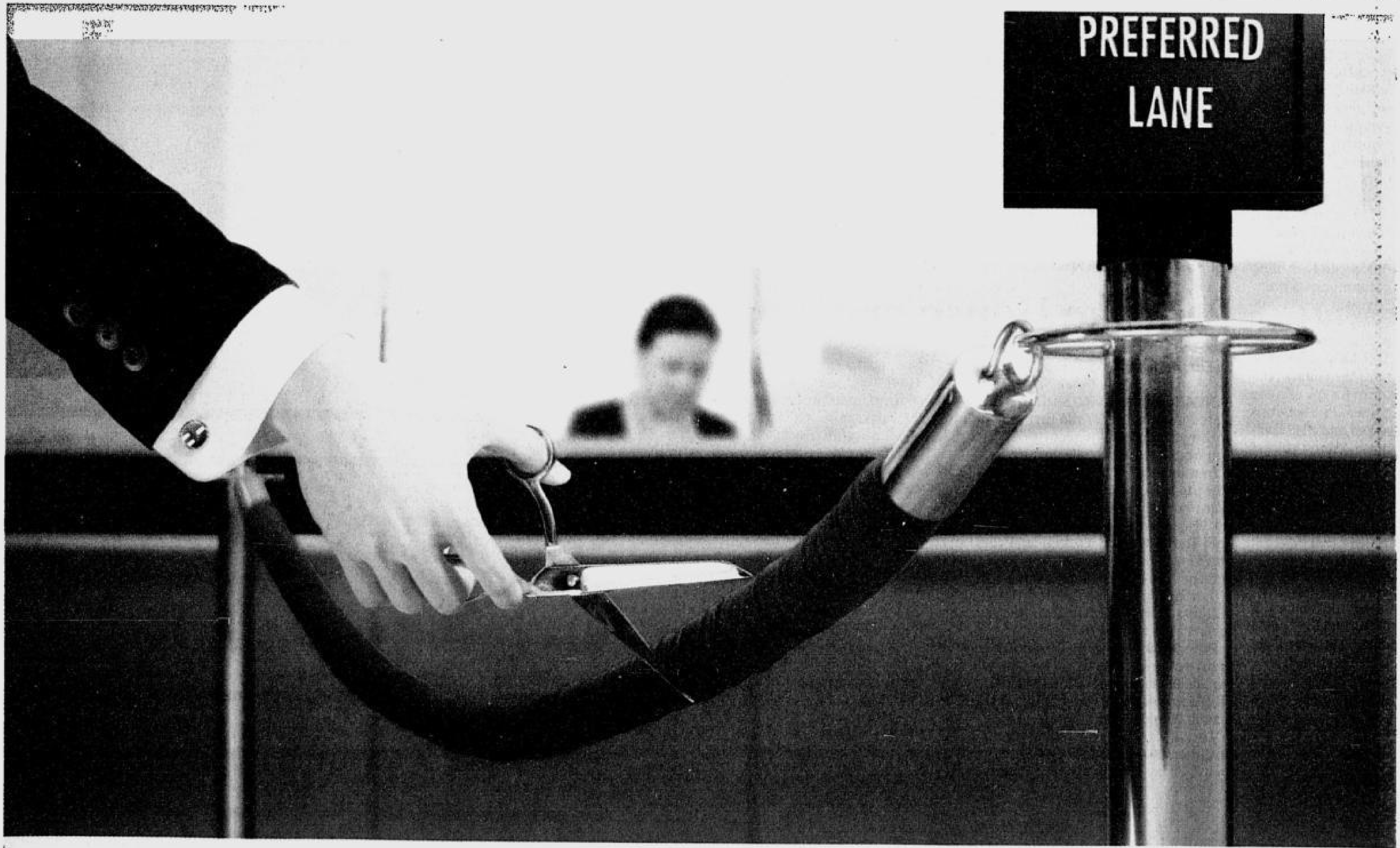
OPEN A 5-YEAR PESO TIME DEPOSIT NOW!
EARN AS HIGH AS 6.50% INTEREST P.A. TAX FREE!

INVESTMENT	*INTEREST RATE
P50,000 - 999,999	6.00%
P1,000,000 - 4, 999,999	6.25%
P5,000,000 - UP	6.50%

* RATES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Bank of Commerce
www.bankcom.com.ph

Call us at 812-0000 locals 2250 / 2439 / 2465 /2233
Member. PDIC & Megalink. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor.
Text Bkcom<yourname><your landline><your e-mail address> send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users



Everyone deserves to be important.

We welcome you as our most important person. Not seeing you as big or small, but seeing you as someone equally deserving of our prompt attention, personalized service and warm smiles as we see to your every need, every day. We give you the best service we can, but most importantly, we give you the importance you deserve. Welcome to Bank of Commerce.

Looking after you.
Bank of Commerce

www.bankcom.com.ph
Call us at 812-0000 for all your banking needs.
Member: PDIC. Deposits Insured up to P250,000 per depositor.

Roxas Group spending ₱5.2B to expand operations

Build ethanol plant, increase sugar output

By Riza T. Olchondra

LISTED INVESTMENT AND MANAGEMENT company Roxas Holdings Inc., which manages the country's largest sugar manufacturing firms, is spending P5.2 billion to expand its operations next year.

Company senior vice president and treasurer Asuncion S. Aguilar told reporters that P3.9 billion would be spent for the expansion of its sugar production capacity, which would involve improvements in the group's sugar refining facilities. About P150 million will be used to acquire machinery and equipment to be used by partner-farmers for a fee, and more than P1 billion will be used to build an ethanol plant in Negros island.

About 70 percent of the cost will be financed through borrowings while 30 percent will be covered by internal funds.

Roxas Holdings chair Pedro E. Roxas said the ethanol plant would use blackstrap molasses, a sugar byproduct. It would be put up in Negros.

"Since Negros is the biggest producer of sugarcane in the country, and it is also the biggest source of molasses. It is logistically the best location for our ethanol plant," he said.

The ethanol plant is expected to start producing 100,000 liters a day starting late 2009. Production is seen to reach 30 million liters per year over the next 10 years.

Roxas said the company was not expecting any conflict between the company's refined sugar business and the ethanol venture because it would use molasses and not sugarcane juice, which is the raw material for making sugar.

Company CEO and president Ramon A. Picornell said the struggle would be between the ethanol producers and the buyers—the oil companies.

The Philippines in 2006 passed a law requiring that local biofuel must make up 5 percent of all liquid fuels for engines by 2008. The biofuel component must increase to 10 percent in the coming years. The implementation of this law is expected to create a demand for 400 million liters of biofuel a year, Picornell said.

He said the conflict between the ethanol producers and the users might be over how the biofuel would be shipped to customers' depots, and who should spend for removing moisture that would accumulate in the alcohol during transport. He said these matters would be discussed in an inter-agency conference in January next year.

"My understanding is that the oil companies want it straight to their depots. Since we are an archipelago, the ethanol may have to be transported by tanker, so it will absorb moisture. That moisture should be taken out before use so there may be additional refining needed at the depot," he said.

The inter-agency conference will be held in January 2008 to address the concerns of the emerging ethanol industry.

"We are not producing ethanol locally, yet. That conference will set the standards for it. Ethanol producers will be there together with the SRA (Sugar Regulatory Administration), DA (Department of Agriculture), DOST (Department of Science and Technology), Department of Energy and the oil companies, including the majors and the independents," he said.

Roxas Holdings was a product of an earlier merger between sugar industry leaders Central Azucarera Don Pedro (CADP) and Central Azucarera de La Carlota. The holding company was formed following the corporate reorganization of its parent company, Roxas Holdings Inc.

CADP owned an integrated milling and refinery complex in Nasugbu, Batangas, which is the country's second largest sugar refiner. The company is also a major partner in a joint venture that acquired Hawaiian Phils. Co., a sugar milling firm in Negros Occidental.

Nihao, Billiton ink deal

LISTED COMPANY Nihao Mineral Resources International Inc. recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine subsidiary of BHP Billiton, QNI Philippines Inc. (QNPH).

BHP Billiton is the world's largest diversified resources company with a market capitalization of about US$225 billion.

Under the MOA, Nihao will conduct a preliminary exploration and drilling program on its property with QNPH providing technical expertise and advice. The MOA also contains the commercial terms for the off-take agreement between Nihao and BHP Billiton's Yabulu nickel refinery in Queensland, Australia.

The Yabulu refinery is one of the world's major nickel processing facilities.

Leoben Evangelista, regional marketing manager of BHP Billiton, QNI Phils chair Allan Goh, Nihao president Jerry Angping and lawyer Khrisnamurti A. Africano, chair of Nihao, signed the agreement.

ETELECARE COMPLETES PSE LISTING

(From right) eTelecare chair Fred Ayala, senior vice president-CFO Mike Dodson and SVP and general manager for operations Benedict Hernandez ring the ceremonial bell to signal the start of last Tuesday's trading at the Philippine Stock Exchange. eTelecare Global Solutions completed that day its listing via introduction. Its common shares trade on the PSE under the symbol "ETEL." This made eTelecare the only business process outsourcing company listed in both Nasdaq and the PSE.

Pancake House profit up 60%

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PANCAKE HOUSE INC. SAID ITS CONSOLIDATED net income for the first nine months of the year rose 60 percent to P36.98 million from P23.1 million a year ago.

In a financial report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, Pancake House said its year-to-date profit came mostly from its Pancake House restaurants and Dencio's bar and grill. The two posted a combined P35.31 million in net income during the period, up 88 percent from P18.8 million last year.

Teriyaki Boy Group Inc. contributed P9.6 million, up from P5.6 million last year, due to new outlets and lower costs.

Pancake House management hopes to improve Teriyaki Boy's net income with the expansion of its operations via the launch of a Japanese steak concept under the "The Sizzlin Pepper Steak" brand.

The first outlet was opened in Trinoma on June 2007 and additional outlets will be opened in the next 12 months, Pancake House said.

Nine-month consolidated revenues grew 18.5 percent to P1.182 billion, from P995.66 million last year.

Combined restaurant and commissary sales grew by 19 percent to P1.12 billion, while franchise revenue increased by 7 percent to P66.8 million.

Total revenue from Pancake House operations from January to September amounted to P470.5 million, up P46.1 million from P424.5 million last year.

In the meantime, Dencio's revenue was down 1.6 percent from P253 million last year to P249.34 million this year.

Teriyaki Boy generated year-to-date revenue of P451.8 million in the current year, or an increase of 43 percent or P136 million.

Teriyaki Boy outlets are projected to increase to at least 35 branches by the end of the year, from 31 as of Sept. 30.

Oil hits $99 . . .

From page B1

lar accused outright the country's major oil companies of running a cartel to fix the domestic pump prices of petroleum products, taking advantage of rising oil prices in the world market.

In his Resolution No. 216, Villar asked the Senate committee on energy, chaired by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, to investigate the existence of an oil cartel and review the effectiveness of the 1998 Downstream Oil Deregulation Act (Republic Act 8479) which sought to prevent cartel operations.

"Based on what the oil companies are doing, I have serious suspicions that a cartel is in operation," Villar yesterday said.

"This is a clear violation of the law. Oil price hikes are simultaneously implemented in spite of the strengthening of our currency against the dollar."

He went on to criticize the Department of Energy for failing to cushion the impact of rising oil prices. *Reuters, Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

CURRENCIES

November 21, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.674582	1.000000	43.3740
Japan	Yen	0.006131	0.009088	0.3942
United Kingdom	Pound	1.393888	2.066300	89.6237
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.086714	0.128545	5.5755
Switzerland	Franc	0.609433	0.903424	39.1851
Canada	Dollar	0.688841	1.021138	44.2908
Singapore	Dollar	0.466419	0.691419	29.9896
Australia	Dollar	0.599575	0.888810	38.5512
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.798837	2.666596	115.6609
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.181096	0.268456	11.6440
Brunei	Dollar	0.464812	0.689037	29.8863
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000072	0.000107	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.021483	0.031847	1.3813
UAE	Dirham	0.183900	0.272613	11.8243
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.482400	64.2976
Korea	Won	0.000732	0.001085	0.0471
China	Yuan**	0.090892	0.134738	5.8441
Denmark	Kroner	0.134159	0.198878	8.6261
India	Rupee	0.017156	0.025432	1.1031
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.200768	0.297619	12.9089
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514045	0.762021	33.0519
Sweden	Kroner	0.107663	0.159599	6.9224
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.020855	0.030915	1.3409

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 20, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 20, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 21, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	18,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	52.5	52.5	51	52	3,120,900
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	61.5	62.5	60.5	61	2,574,500
748	540	China Banking Corp	700	700	680	680	3,810
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	20	17.5	20	3,000
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	1,110,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	52	53	51.5	52.5	1,319,800
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	43	43.5	41.5	41.5	907,200
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	61	61	60	60	5,800
39.57	20	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.5	2,100,300
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	68	68	68	68	2,900
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	43	44	43	44	443,800
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp	4	4	4	4	10,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.92	1.96	1.92	1.96	3,388,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	11	496,600
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	1,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	4.95	5	4.95	5	70,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	290
5	2.8	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3	3	2.8	2.8	7,181,000
1,390.00	260	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	110
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	540
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	50,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.9	5	4.8	4.85	972,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	57.5	58	57	58	2,217,100
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	65	65	63	63	552,100
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	7,559,100
105.45	27.73	Manila Electric Co.	72.5	73.5	69	69.5	2,595,200
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.7	7	6.3	6.3	46,015,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	11,453,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	215,000
2.5	1.7	Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	30,000
2.04	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.26	1.28	4,130,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.95	5	4.95	5	420,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.64	1.66	451,000
2.4	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	30,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.5	23.5	21.5	23.5	10,200
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	47	47.5	47	47.5	573,900
3.45	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.5	2.65	2.5	2.65	4,000
80	46	San Miguel Corp. "A"	49	49	46	47	78,600
88	47	San Miguel Corp. "B"	49.5	50	47	47.5	270,300
20.75	13.5	Universal Robina Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	4,086,100
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED-SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	ELI Corp.	4.65	4.8	4.6	4.75	747,000
7	3.2	Republic Cement Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	93,000
2	0.71	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1	1.02	0.97	0.97	3,206,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	382,000
2.4	1.31	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2	2	2	2	1,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.37	8,080,000
9	7.4	Splash Corp	7.7	7.9	7.4	7.9	2,302,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Holdings Corp. - Phil. Deposit Receipts	32.5	33	32.5	33	489,200
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	35,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.11	0.11	176,510,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	5,710,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	74,000,000
9.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	2,934,000
0.021	0.009	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	140,500,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.2	14,014,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.44	2.46	3,102,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	565	570	560	565	381,820
15.25	7.39	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	14	2,500
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.7	3.8	8,299,000
12	4.95	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.25	10.75	10.25	10.25	630,000
8	3.15	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	114,000
3.55	1.76	House of Investments Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	107,000
14.5	8.4	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,257,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
1.42	1.42	Lodestar Investment Hldgs Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	3,650,000
0.8	0.23	Medco Holdings Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.2	6.4	5.9	5.9	3,045,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	31,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.24	0.245	0.225	0.23	352,520,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	5,000,000
2.1	1.3	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	350	350	340	345	118,150
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	4,000
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,300,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	84,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,270,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	170,000
		PROPERTY					
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.4	26,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	16	15.5	16	15,221,000
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	2,565,000
4.7	3	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	51,000
2.04	1.56	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp. A	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	312,000
2.06	1.7	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	160,000
3.83	2	City and Land Developers Inc.	2	2	2	2	30,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,010,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.33	3,120,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.74	11,300,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.22	0.23	4,160,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.9	0.92	1,770,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	10,107,000
0.49	0.11	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.25	0.27	0.22	0.27	400,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.46	1,470,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.9	22,395,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	62,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	3.2	3.2	3.05	3.05	446,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	1,580,000
9.2	1.32	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.25	4.05	4.25	2,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	17.5	1,352,200
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	4	256,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	12,350,800
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	218,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.22	2.24	1.98	2.08	1,006,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	340,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.24	850,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5	5	4.8	4.9	10,531,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32.5	33	32	32.5	54,200
12	7.9	GMA Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8	1,121,000
11.75	7.7	GMA Network Inc	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	790,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	4,517,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,470.00	1,470.00	83,360
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,000.00	3,030.00	2,995.00	3,020.00	153,210
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7	7	6.8	7	6,323,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	2,570,000
14.75	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	14.25	14.75	14	14.75	1,738,200
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.8	351,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.038	19,700,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15	15	15	15	26,300
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3.5	3.5	3	3.2	135,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.34	1.38	196,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp	0.049	0.05	0.047	0.049	62,500,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	273,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	65,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	145,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	39	38.5	38.5	1,334,000
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.7	1.7	41,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.24	2.5	2.24	2.5	707,000
6	2.16	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	20,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.97	1.08	0.97	0.98	24,760,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	820,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	156,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	11.75	11	11.5	302,000
30	6.5	Paxys Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.6	896,000
410	390	eTelecare Global Solutions Inc	400	400	395	395	4,860
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	73,000,000
6.9	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.7	5.9	5.5	5.7	505,000
7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	1,023,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14	14	13.25	13.25	718,800
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	11.5	11.5	11	11.25	133,000
12.75	1.84	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	9	9.2	8.4	8.4	236,000
3.1	0.6	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.66	1.68	52,803,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.53	0.53	0.45	0.45	192,280,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.57	0.57	0.5	0.5	55,990,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.026	0.026	384,300,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	146,800,000
30	2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	19	19	17.5	17.5	1,106,500
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	64,200,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	40,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp	9.6	9.7	9.3	9.5	11,085,000
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40.5	42	40.5	42	95,300
1.36	0.5	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	650,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	3,378,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3,580,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	60,200,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	31,100,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	10	10	28,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	99,400,000

	AVERAGES		VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	848.74 UP	1.92	22,837,550	532,264,470.00
Industrial	4,011.99 DOWN	121.68	96,533,600	992,027,375.00
Holding Firms	2,021.34 DOWN	13.75	795,838,470	547,288,920.00
Property	1,597.47 DOWN	11.89	102,899,000	582,136,885.00
Service	1,790.96 DOWN	1.53	128,526,130	769,358,510.00
Mining & Oil	7,951.57 DOWN	213.89	1,182,611,600	391,675,300.00
All Shares Index	2,140.43 DOWN	23.30		
PSEi	3,510.49 DOWN	30.12		
	GRAND TOTALS		2,329,246,350	3,814,751,460.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Bangko Sentral seen slashing key rates further

StanChart says low inflation rate, strong peso to allow two more cuts in first half of '08

GOV. Migs Dominguez (2nd from right) joins (from left) Petron Corp. chair and CEO Nicasio Alcantara, president Kamal Al-yahya and corporate planning vice president Sulaiman Ababtain in planting a mahogany seedling at the Hadji Musa Elementary School in Kapatan in Glan, Sarangani. Petron officials and executives of the United States Agency for International Development visited the school to formally open a three-classroom building donated by the oil firm under the Adopt-a-School Program.

By Doris C. Dumlao

BRITISH BANK STANDARD CHARtered and Sun Life Financial Philippines yesterday said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas still have more room to bring down its rates further given a benign inflation outlook, the sharp appreciation of the peso against the US dollar and the possibility of further rate cuts by the US Fed.

The BSP has so far slashed its policy rates thrice this year.

In a commentary, StanChart economist Frances Cheung predicted two more cuts of 25 basis points each in the first two quarters of 2008 to bring the BSP's overnight borrowing rate to 5 percent, which is currently at 5.5 percent. The lending rate is at 7.5 percent.

"The outlook for inflation has turned more benign than we had anticipated given a stronger peso, in addition to the more liberalized trade policies that facilitate imports of cheap goods," Cheung said.

Stanchart thus revised downward its 2008 inflation forecast for the Philippines to 3.8 percent from 4.5 percent. Cheung, however, said there were risks to inflation.

"Agricultural products account for a half of the consumer price index basket. Any supply shocks could lead to surge in prices, especially given the high global agricultural prices," she said.

High oil price was cited as another threat.

In a briefing, SLFP chief investment officer Michael Manuel also said the BSP would likely ease interest rates further, especially since the US Fed was hinting of further cutting its rates.

Manuel said the BSP had limited tools to slow down the appreciation of the local currency, which was hurting three major contributors to economic growth—exporters, overseas Filipino workers and business process outsourcing.

Intervening through the foreign exchange market, Manuel said, had proven to be very costly for the BSP. As such, another option to curb the peso's rise was to lower its interest rates.

Manuel said the BSP was more concerned about the adverse impact of the peso rise on major economic sectors than on inflation.

He added that the BSP's bias for monetary easing was evident in the pronouncements of central bank officials, who kept on talking about their benign inflation rate outlook and how the growth in broad money supply had returned to comfortable levels.

10% tax slapped on block sales

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVenue is imposing a 10-percent tax on net capital gains arising from block sales of stocks, a circular posted on the agency's website showed.

Stockbrokers said such a move would just become a big stumbling block to potential mergers and acquisition deals.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, a block sale is a matched trade that does not go through an order matching system of the stock exchange. It is pre-arranged by broker-dealers' clients and entered directly into the PSE system as a done deal.

PSE chief operating officer Roy Joseph Rafols said in a memorandum to brokers that the PSE was still confirming with the BIR the effectivity date of the tax circular.

The BIR circular, citing Section 127 of the Tax Code of 1997, said shares that were not disposed of through the stock exchange should be levied a final tax of either 5 percent or 10 percent on net capital gains.

The sale and exchange of shares is slapped a tax of 1/2 of 1 percent of the gross selling price, provided the shares involved are traded on the stock exchange.

Revenue Commissioner Lilian Hefti said in a tax circular that the principle underlying this "preferential treatment" was the national goal of promoting and hastening the development of the domestic capital market by enticing the general public to actively take part in the trading in the local stock exchange.

Hefti said any transaction that, in effect, excluded the public by any means from taking part in the trading should be taxed under relevant provisions of the Tax Code.

The revenue circular posted yesterday covers but is not limited to cases of block sales.

Block sales are usually the means by which mergers and acquisitions are finalized since the transaction prices are pre-arranged by clients involved in the deal.

DOF opposing proposed tax perks for senior citizens

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE is opposing a Senate bill exempting bank deposits of senior citizens from the 20-percent tax on interest income.

In a position paper submitted to the Senate committee on ways and means, the DOF said only senior citizens from wealthier families would be able to benefit from the measure.

Those belonging from low-income families hardly have anything to save, the DOF said.

The DOF also said the bill, authored by Sen. Loren Legarda, could result in leakage in revenue collection because the perk could be prone to abuse.

"Unscrupulous individuals may use the incentive by placing their deposits in the name of senior citizens to avail themselves of the privilege," the DOF said in the position paper.

Senate Bill No. 269 seeks to amend the Senior Citizen Act, or Republic Act No. 7432, by adding the proposed tax exemption to the list of benefits. Existing benefits include discounts in the senior citizens' purchases.

The DOF said the amount of potential revenues to be lost from the enactment of the bill had yet to be computed, but it was expecting the amount to be substantial. It noted that there were 5.7 million Filipinos aged at least 60 years old as of 2004.

"While there are no statistics available on the savings profile of this group, data from the 2003 Family Income and Expenditure Survey revealed that the families with savings are those earning P60,000 to P480,000 yearly," the DOF said.

The DOF also said the proposed exemption of senior citizens from income tax on bank deposits will be very difficult to administer.

It said that if the government wanted more assistance provided to senior citizens, then it would be wiser to give them nontax incentives.

The government should instead increase its budget for programs intended to improve the welfare of senior citizens, especially those belonging to low-income families.

"It is the less privileged among our elderly who are in dire need of assistance from the government in their retirement years," the DOF said.

The DOF said it was not wise for the government to adopt measures that will substantially erode revenues while it was still in the process of attaining a balanced budget.

The government hopes to limit its budget deficit to P63 billion this year and to post a balanced budget by next year and the succeeding years.

Expo to meet tourists' demand for culture crafts

MATCHING THE GROWING DEmand by tourists for world-class crafts and providing sustainable livelihood for artisans will be addressed by handicraft producers and industry experts from more than 20 countries participating in the First International Arts and Crafts Expo of the Asean Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (Ahpada).

Vice President Noli de Castro will deliver a keynote speech when he opens the four-day expo this morning at the SMX Convention Center (across Mall of Asia).

The expo is supported by the national organizing committee composed of the Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine Tourism Authority, Ahpada, Philippine Small and Medium Enterprise Development Foundation and Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp.

The Vice President will tour the exhibits by 10 Asean countries, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and the United States.

The components of the expo are a display of world-class crafts products, a business opportunities forum (Biz Ops '08), daily cultural entertainment, and an international selling area.

The event seeks to raise awareness of the importance of arts and crafts to the well-being and livelihood of artisans. The expo serves also as a one-stop, convenient venue to market crafts of participating nations.

Industry experts will lecture at Biz Ops '08 on modern product designs, marketing trends, packaging and merchandising, and protection of intellectual property of artisans.

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" H. Durano said the market for cultural products had been growing as travel agents and tour operators meet the strong demand for tour packages with cultural components.

Whether tourists are on business or sightseeing, they stop in festivals, museums, malls or flea markets to collect crafts for souvenir, housewares, interior décor, gift-giving or investment, Durano said.

AG-LOAD
GCash
G-Xchang
Inc.
TC
emorand
of Agr
nt

MNTC Executive Vice President Rodrigo Franco and GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala (seated, second and third from left) sign the groundbreaking MOA, joined by MNTC VP for Operations and Maintenance Assurance Services Raul L. Ignacio, and GXI Cross Industries Head Marly Baldia. With them are (standing, L to R) MNTC Senior Manager for Toll Collection Operation & Maintenance, O&M Assurance Services Glenn G. Campos, MNTC AVP for MIS Albert Alday, GXI Cross Industries Business Development Head Valerie Sanchez, GXI Business Integraton and Support Manager Joanne Avendano, and GXI Marketing Head Richie Sison.

Travel North the Easy Way with GCASH and ECTAG

GCASH continues to expand the boundaries of mobile commerce in the country, bringing unprecedented ease and convenience to Filipino consumers' daily lives. G-Xchange, Inc. (GXI), the award-winning Globe subsidiary responsible for the development of GCASH, has joined hands with the Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC) to enable Filipino motorists to experience the ease and convenience of using GCASH to top-up their NLEX ECTAG passes.

GCASH has won international accolades for its groundbreaking m-commerce portfolio, transforming your cellphone into a mobile wallet that lets you send and receive payments with a simple text message. With GXI's partnership with MNTC, the ease and convenience of GCASH can now be better experienced by motorists and travelers making their way across northern Luzon.

GXI Marketing Manager Aris Reyes (center) highlights the benefits and convenience made possible by the partnership between GXI and the MNTC.

"Our partnership with MNTC adds to the GCASH ecosystem's expanding suite of payment options, providing consumers with a rich mobile commerce experience by simplifying access to essential services like ECTAG," said GXI President Rizza Maniego-Eala.

"Like GXI, we are constantly looking for ways to make our product more convenient and more pleasant for our customers to use. We hope we can provide more value to GCASH users by facilitating their travel to northern destinations," said MNTC Executive Vice President Rodrigo Franco.

The NLEX ECTAG itself is a technological marvel of convenience that liberates motorists from the hassle of long cues at the tollway. Now, GCASH makes ECTAG even more convenient by facilitating faster and easier top-up that's as simple as sending a text message!

This exciting new service from GCASH and MNTC offers the convenience of non-stop travel, with no need for stopovers to reload your ECTAG pass. Everything is done instantaneously, thanks to GCASH's seamless integration with Globe's nationwide cellular network and the power of MNTC's wireless technology.

MNTC
Pinalakas na Touch Mobile
Globe
© 2007 Globe Telecom, Inc.

Revisiting the BIMP-Eaga roadmap

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

LAST MONTH, THE OFFICIALS OF THE four countries that make up the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) met in Davao City to discuss key issues affecting the development of the regional cooperation, which started over 10 years ago.

On top of the list is the long-delayed plan to harmonize and rationalize country policies.

The four top officials, with Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza representing the Philippines, made a firm commitment to review the roadmap to development of the subregion next year, saying this was necessary "to ensure that the priority projects continue to be relevant."

Representing the other countries in the very important meeting were Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, second minister of foreign affairs and trade of Brunei; Tan Sri Da'i Bachtiar, special envoy for Eaga of the Republic of Indonesia; and Senator Dato' Haji Abdul Raman bin Suliman, deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department of Malaysia.

Revisiting the roadmap

From a private sector point of view, there is a serious need to review the roadmap. When I was deputy chair of the East Asean Business Council in 2002, I recommended to the council that for Eaga to move forward faster and generate more business activities and investments, it is important to revisit the real intent of the regional cooperation and analyze what worked and did not work; what were the reasons for the success as well as failures.

It will also be good to be able to cite successful businesses and partnerships to serve not only as a model, but also as an inspiration to motivate private sector to pursue trade and investments. It would also be good to closely examine government regulations and policies that hamper doing business in each country.

We agree with the four officials on their decision to review the roadmap of the subregion because we believe this will at least give refreshing insights and creative strategies to meet the goals of the subregional cooperation.

This will also allow the four countries to strengthen mechanisms that need to be emphasized. The review, we hope, will also silence critics who, instead of helping ensure the program's success, are saying a mouthful to try to pull the subregion down.

The four countries also agreed to push their local government officials "to strengthen their coordination with relevant national and local government institutions" so that prompt action can immediately be undertaken.

Preserving the environment

The senior officials also said that with the help of the Asian Development Bank, they have agreed to put primary focus on the preservation of the environment.

In this aspect, the bank, which is the regional advisor of the subregion, agreed to set aside $1.5 million in the next two years for the plans that will focus mainly on preservation of the Sulu-Sulawesi and Borneo areas.

Urooj Malik, the bank's top official in environment, confirmed that it would focus its attention on environmental protection in the next 10 years, allotting about $75 million for the purpose.

This new tack is a welcome development considering that the subregion, more than focusing on trading, must also be able to preserve its natural resources for the next generations.

The issue on environment has been left behind, and it is timely now for the subregion to focus its attention on it as the debate on global warming and other related issues is becoming more intense.

Another issue that was discussed during that event was the desire of the tourism industry players to maximize the implementation of the fifth freedom traffic rights, which allow airline companies to service one destination within the subregion other than what they are servicing.

Industry players believe that with the implementation of this mechanism, airline companies will be lured to expand their service in the subregion considering that traffic within routes will increase. We hope this will happen.

Other issues were discussed during the meeting and these issues would be presented to the principals of the four countries when they meet this month in Singapore.

We hope the subregion will finally take off in terms of trading with other areas, and more so, within itself. After all, the primary goal was for areas within the subregion to strengthen interaction, both in terms of trading and culture-related ventures.

The way ahead

The private sector's faith in the regional cooperation remains as strong as ever in the fields of business and investments, tourism, human resource development, agriculture and fisheries.

We need to see a stronger signal from government that it is willing to do its share in facilitating trade and investments; make policies less bureaucratic; reduce the cost of doing business among the four countries.

Most of the businesses existing in these cooperation are owned by small and medium-scale enterprises and therefore policies must be geared toward SMEs. There must be a package of incentives to encourage more SMEs to get themselves involved in Eaga.

There must be greater consultation among the active stakeholders all over Mindanao during the review process so that everybody will invest in whatever strategies and plans that will be finalized.

A database of small businesses in the four countries must be made available to all interested parties so that investors can easily find a partner to do business with.

The way ahead seems bright for as long as everybody puts all resources together and work as a team.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for Mindanao development; chair of the Jojin Ilagan Foundation; Mindanao TVET Association and Phil. Call Centers Alliance; Export Development Council-Mindanao Rep. For comments, e-mail to jojibian2@yahoo.com.)

DA distributes flatbed dryers to rice farmers

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Department of Agriculture has begun distributing at least 200 flatbed dryers in Central Luzon, hoping that through these, farmers could reduce the cost of drying palay from P15 to P8 a bag.

Two associations of irrigators in Sto. Domingo and another in Palayan City in Nueva Ecija were the initial recipients last week, according to Redentor Gatus, DA regional director.

Fifty of the beneficiaries were still undergoing validation, documents showed.

Worth P600,000 each, the flatbed dryers are given as grants from the DA's Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (Acef), he said.

The Acef has become controversial in the past owing to alleged misuse by politicians who used spurious organizations as fronts.

The flatbed dryers can dry 120 cavans of palay every six hours.

The flatbed dryers come with a furnace fed by rice hull, stalks and other organic wastes.

The dryer was designed by the Bureau of Postharvest and Research Extension (BPRE), which is also implementing the project.

The program covers 37 provinces where the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani program is implemented, propped up by a P500-million fund, project documents showed.

The project aims to reduce the average 15-percent loss borne by farmers who dry their palay on roads or other flat surfaces.

A BPRE study in 2000 showed that "existing drying facilities in the country cannot meet the drying requirements of the farmers."

As a counterpart in the project, irrigators' associations provide a 200-square meter land as site for the facility.

"[Agriculture] Secretary [Arthur] Yap wants to help increase the profits of farmers. He knows that delays in drying or improper drying make it hard on farmers to increase their income. We hope the flatbed dryers would really be helpful in that sense," Gatus told the INQUIRER.

The DA also reported that the prolonged dry spell in the region, which ended in August, had no adverse impact on the region's rice production.

The May to October planting season yielded 894,216 metric tons of rice, an 8-percent increase over last year's output.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
ETHEREALLY MADE CO. LTD. 1224 T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Longcheng Xu Chinese	Production Manager
ETHEREALLY MADE CO. LTD. 1224 T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Yanhui Shi Chinese	Finance Manager
ETHEREALLY MADE CO. LTD. 1224 T. Mapua St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Jinxing Wu Chinese	Sales Manager
WOODS GLOBE EDU CORP. 2/F Blessed Trinity School, Silicon cor. Silver St., Pilar Village, Las Piñas City	Seunghyun Lee Korean	Technical Operations Manager
WOODS GLOBE-EDU CORP. 2/F Blessed Trinity School, Silicon cor. Silver St., Pilar Village, Las Piñas City	Junho Choi Korean	Operations Manager
TRADITIONAL MARINES CORP. 1027 Asuncion St., Binondo, Manila	Gaofeng Yang Chinese	Technical Supervisor
TRADITIONAL MARINES CORP. 1027 Asuncion St., Binondo, Manila	Wenluo Xu Chinese	Consultant
TRADITIONAL MARINES CORP. 1027 Asuncion St., Binondo, Manila	Yimou Xu Chinese	Supervisor
ASIAN TERMINALS, INC. ATI Head Office, A. Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila	Ernst Theodoor Alexander Schulze Dutch	Vice Pres.-South Harbor Container Terminal & Gen. Stevedoring Division
GLOBALINENS INTERNATIONAL INC. 8006 Pioneer Centre Bldg., Pioneer St., Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Hing Kit Fung British	Consultant for Operations
GLOBALINENS INTERNATIONAL INC. 8006 Pioneer Centre Bldg., Pioneer St., Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Wai Fun Fung Shum British	Consultant for Operations
BRIDGESTONE ASIA PACIFIC PTE. LTD. 2262 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City	Masao Kobayashi Japanese	Chief Representative
EGYPTIAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC. Rm. 206 Jalandoni Bldg., 1444 R. Salas cor. A. Mabini Sts., Ermita, Manila	Majed Ahmed Kamel Khalil Egyptian	Coordinator
TOWA DENKI TRADING PHILIPPINES Unit 1104 A. Richville Corporate Tower, Alabang-Zapote Rd., MBP, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Atsushi Tamada Japanese	Chief Representative
SD SUN DRAGON INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 747 Nicanor Padilla St., San Miguel, Manila	Xinghua Lin Chinese	Manager
THE THOMSON (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION 18/F Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jianya Tang Chinese	Mandarin Translator
WESUPPORTASIA, INC. U-1103 Cityland Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Chanyoung Rho Korean	Japanese Customer Support Desk Manager (Shift 3)
WESUPPORTASIA, INC. U-1103 Cityland Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Takao Koike Japanese	Japanese Customer Support Desk Manager (Shift 2)
WESUPPORTASIA, INC. U-1103 Cityland Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Hodaka Nakazono Japanese	Japanese Customer Support Desk Manager (Shift 1)
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Xiaorong Gu Chinese	Interpreter
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Jianliang Zhu Chinese	Chemical Engineer
EPOCHINA MINING CORP. 7 Molave St., South Forbes Park, Makati City	Zhengyu Shi Chinese	Chemist
SOFT WHEEDLE TRADING LTD. CO. 101 Masangkay St., Binondo, Manila	Rongli Xu Chinese	Supervisor
QINGTAN WENCHENG MANUFACTURING CORP. 48 Kalakal St., San Rafael Village, Navotas Metro Manila	Kunyi Chen Chinese	Supervisor
CRYSTAL STEEL FABRICATORS PHILS. INC. U-2701/2702 Union Bank Plaza, Meralco Ave. cor. Onyx St., Ortigas Ctr. Pasig City	Stephen Howe Coates American	Vice President - Detailing
VANNA TRAVEL & TOURS 34 Masaya St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City	Xin Fan Chinese	General Manager
WESERV SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 14/F Net Square Bldg., 3rd Ave. cor. 28th St., Crescent Park West. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Zhuang Yexin Chinese	Bridge Systems Engineer
WESERV SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC. 14/F Net Square Bldg., 3rd Ave. cor. 28th St., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Mitsunobu Araki Japanese	Senior Manager in charge of the Fujitsu Development Centre
KORYO PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES INC. JGC Phils. Bldg., 1606 Trade St., MBP Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sun Dong Pag Korean	Consultant
CML NATIVE SPEAKERS TUTORIAL CENTER INC. 2/F Gaston Bldg., 30 J. Elizalde St., BF Homes, Parañaque City	Soyun Kim (w/o Lee) Korean	Office Staff
TABOSEM PHIL. CORP. U-101B Centerpoint Bldg., J. Vargas Ave. cor. Garnet Rd., Ortigas, Pasig City	Hanseok Seo Korean	General Manager
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT, INC. Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City	Masakazu Otsuka Japanese	Japanese Restaurant Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - November 22, 2007)

Chinese companies eye tuna ventures

By Judy Quiros
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—CHINESE COMPANIES engaged in tuna export and processing have started negotiations for a possible venture with local tuna exporters operating at the Davao City Fish Port Complex (DCFPC) in Toril district here.

George Campeon, director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Southern Mindanao, said the negotiations started in October when representatives from three Chinese companies visited the city.

Campeon said that during the visit, the Chinese investors expressed enthusiasm in investing in the city's tuna industry.

"The group is composed of big time processors in China," he said during the recent Kapehan sa Dabaw held at SM City Davao.

Campeon said the Chinese investors, in partnership with local exporters, were more likely to initially invest in the export of tuna.

"A tuna processing plant could come later in view of the need to raise a considerable capital of about $20 million to $30 million," he said.

Campeon also said that the arrival of foreign investors would not affect the city's domestic tuna consumption requirement of five tons a day.

He said fish catch that would not qualify as class A or exportable tuna would go to the city's wet markets.

DCFPC is one of the region's tuna landing ports and supplies most of Southern Mindanao.

During the first half of the year, DCFPC posted a total production volume of 32,263 metric tons.

Western Visayas invites investors in tourism

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—IT'S A GOOD time to invest in tourism in Western Visayas because of multibillion-peso infrastructure projects lined up for the region, according to Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab.

"The smart investors are those who look at the strategies of government and start investing," Palabyab said here recently on the sidelines of the Western Visayas Tourism Assembly.

President Macapagal Arroyo last year identified the Visayas as the tourism super region of the country.

To boost growth, two new multibillion airports of international standard have been completed in Iloilo and Negros Occidental, Palabyab said.

"The airports are giant steps in making Western Visayas a major tourism destination," he said.

He also noted that access to the country's prime tourist destination, Boracay Island, was boosted by the recent direct flights between Kalibo, the capital town of Aklan, and Seoul, South Korea.

Eventually, he said, the Department of Tourism would like to see direct flights from other countries landing in the new Negros airport in Silay City.

"We are constantly monitoring the infrastructure requirements needed to boost tourism, especially to connect destinations," he said. "This is the contribution of government in terms of public investment, to encourage the private sector to have more self confidence in the tourism super region."

Palabyab, meanwhile, lauded the holding of a tourism assembly in the region.

"This congress is very important because it is where you gather the public and private sector and get them in sync with national programs," he said.

The week-long tourism assembly carried the theme "Entrepreneurial Tourism: Beyond Tourism Arrivals."

AUCTION

www.goindustry.com

LIVE AUCTION SALE

ON: TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2007 - 10:30AM SHARP
At.: LIETZ Industrial Complex, Edison Ave. (P. Leviste), Km. 14, SLEX, Parañaque City

GYM EQUIPMENTS/EXERCISERS: LIFESTRIDE Treadmills 9500/TR4500; STAR TRAC Recumbent Bikes; STAR TRAC Lifecycle Bikes 9500; LIFESTEP 9500; FLEX Dumbel Rack.
MACHINE TOOLS : SUMITOMO Injection Moulding Machine; SEIBU EDM Machine; LOGO Wheels Conveyor Machines; SUMITOMO Cyclo Drives; SUMITOMO Hyponic Drives; 15, 10 & 5 Tons Aircon Compressors; Induction Motors; Gear Motors; Motor Drive Motors; FOSS NIR Systems, MITTY Control Panels; Pillow Block & Bolt Flanged; etc.
ELECTRICALS: TELEMECANIQUE Contactors; Transformers; SUMITOMO Optical Wire; Coaxial Wire Cables; Circuit Breakers; Circuit Contactors; SIEMENS & CROMTON Current Transformers; G.E. Power Control Fan Assemblies; Voltmeters; Halogen Flood Lights; PHILIPS Fluorescent Lamp; ENTRELEC Terminal Block; Lighting Fixtures; Electrical Wires; etc.
LAPTOPS & COMPUTERS : HP/COMPAQ Pentium M 1.4 GHZ Laptops; DELL/IBM Pentium 4 2.0GHZ Laptops; COMPAQ Pentium 4; 2.4 GHZ Processor Computer Sets; CPU's; Monitors; Keyboards; etc.
OFFICE FURNITURES & EQUIPMENTS: Workstations; Executive/Guest/Clerical Swivel Chairs; Glass Display Cabinets; Watch Display Cabinets; Hanging Cabinets/ Hanging Shelves; Office Tables; Four/Three/Two Drawers Lateral Cabinets; VIVACE 230 Photocopier, GPJ-1120 Overhead Projector, UPS's; Dismantled Partitions/Table Tops; etc.
KITCHEN & HOUSEHOLD GOODS: S.S. Storage Cabinets w/ Counter Tops; S.S. Storage Cabinet w/ Food Preparation Counter Top; GASUL Portable Gas Burners; MIRRO Pressure Cookers; G.E. Single Door Freezer; MEZZO Personal Ref.; Microwave Oven; UGOLINI Juice Dispenser; Mini Food Processor; MISTRALCool Fan ; SONY T.V. Set; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS: DAIKIN Model ACEF Air Cleaners/Purifiers; Chemical Filters; Asstd. Sizes S/S Rollers; Plastic/PVC Sheets; Fiberglass Heaters; Pneumatic /Air Cylinders; S/S Valves; Pneumatic Hoses; DEWALT Power Hand Tools; GMC Compound Mitre Saw; OZITO Fan Cooled Mig Welder; Motorized Auto Wrench; ITON Cable Puller; 2 Ton Hydraulic Floor Jacks; ALLTRADE 36" Folding Creeper; Nylon Wheels; PVC Pipes; Metal Pipes; Steel Racks; Plastic Bins & Crates; S/S Scraps; S/S Cylo; Asstd. Colors Stickers; CILLIT Lime & Rust Remover; BRITE 3 in 1 Floor Liquid, Scrap Battery Operated Forklift; Carpet Tiles; etc

On View: Monday 26th November 2007 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php5,000 (upon registration)

GoIndustry
Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION

Contact JENNY, JESSA or DANG
Tel: 822-5555 Fax: 822-3333
Email: manila@goindustry.com
www.goindustry.com

BILIRAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(BILECO)
Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran
Tel. Nos. (053) 500-9039 to 42 Fax No. (053) 500-9744
e-mail: bilecomsd@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested parties who are qualified to bid for Various Line Hardware, Materials and Distribution Transformers with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Php 2,137,254.90 to be funded by the NDCC subsidy under the CARE Program.

Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible Bidder on December 10-12, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) at the Secretariat of Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Pre-Bid Conference will be held at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran on December 13, 2007/10:00 a.m. Bid Opening will be conducted on January 2, 2008/10:00 a.m. at BILECO MPB, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran.

Bid documents of Bidder shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria. All particulars relative to the eligibility tendering, competitive bidding, and award of Contract shall be in accordance with BILECO Policy No. 98-13 as amended. All proposals shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the Bidder's offer to the Contract put out to bid and shall be subject to Post-qualification before an award is made.

BILECO reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, declare a failure of bidding and to waive any required formality therein, and or to make an award to Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the electric cooperative.

A letter expressing the intent of the Bidder to bid must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee prior to purchase of Bid Documents. All communications shall be addressed to the undersigned on the above address with telephone number (053) 500-9041 and facsimile number (053) 500-9744.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO P. ROMERO, M.E.**
TSD Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Noted:
(Sgd.) **MARLON B. ROA**
General Manager

(PDI-November 22 & 29, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District VI

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2601 and 2607 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, as well as CMO No. 5-2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted at the Port of Cebu on Thursday, December 3, 2007 at 10:00 in the morning, of the herein articles. Said articles shall be available for public viewing on November 29, 2007. For further inquiry, please contact the following number (032) 2323788.

Article	Floor Price
1,700 Bags of Class "D" Sugar	Php1,445,000.00 @ Php850.00 per bag

Requirements for participating bidders:

A.) PhP 2,000.00 registration fee; and
B.) Cash bond deposit of PhP 20,000.00 either in cash or Manager's Check refundable to the losing bidder/s after closing of the auction sale
C.) Income Tax Return.

Registration fee and cash bond deposits must be paid at least one (1) day before the date of actual bidding.

Participating Bidders must be CBW Processors/Exporters of sugar-based products with Sugar Regulatory Authority (SRA) Allocation for the year 2007.

Registered bidders shall secure bid-tender forms from the Chairman, Auction and Cargo Disposal Committee and surrender the unused forms after auction proceedings.

The floor price as well as the bid price is exclusive of SRA Clearance Fee of Php 22.00/LKg-Bag

The winning bidder shall issue to the SRA a Performance Bond prior to withdrawal of the articles from the BOC.

In case of a failed bidding, the next bidding will be held on the third (3rd) business day thereafter or on December 6, 2007 at the same place and time specified herein.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formalities and accept bids/tenders most advantageous to the interest of the government.

Done at the Port of Cebu, Philippines, November 16, 2007.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO R. BELMONTE, CESO VI**
District Collector

(PDI--Nov. 22, 2007)

ISABELA II ELECTRIC, INC.

Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

ACCOUNTANT

- Certified Public Accountant
- Above-average Scholastic performance
- With years of work experience in Cooperative Accounting System
- Possess good communication skills, both oral and written
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Proficient in Microsoft Office, (Excel, PowerPoint and Word)
- Knowledge in Computerized Accounting and Billing Systems

Applicants should send: Application Letter with detailed curriculum vitae; Authenticated Transcript of Records and Diploma; Copies of Educational, Professional Certificates; Testimonials of work experiences and two recent passport-sized photo to the office of the General Manager.

RYKEROLL
RENT-A-VAN
07 URVAN
ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776 / 7964377
09213497170

WE BUY at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
5646593 5897041
09., 6473744
Room 603 Manila Pavilion
Hotel and
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2 Makati

Where you find the best.
JOB Market
Where you find the best.

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX
& other SWISS WATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
3829198
8341572

NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads:

DOLE-NCR.................................. B6
Philippine Navy.......................... B2

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC

There have been several "news" articles that were published in several tabloids against our company as well as innuendoes and hearsays purposely circulated in and around the LTO to besmirch our reputation and place us in a bad light. These are all false, malicious, defamatory, baseless and wildly speculative.

Worse, these publicity stunts are all anonymous and were never verified with us. The truth is no one has come forward to accuse us of any wrongdoing and no one has filed any complaint against our company with the LTO or in any other forum.

We thus appeal to the public not to be fooled by such cowardly and libelous press releases. Likewise, please help us identify the perpetrator of the same. Ample reward will be given to anyone who can assist us bring the despicable shenanigan to justice.

The Management and Staff
Realtime Data Management Services, Inc.
1506-B PSE East Tower, Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 687-3009/ 687-9034/687-9861

(PDI--Nov. 22, 2007)

OBITUARIES

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7

ELISA NADYA E. GAMO

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of the Lord on the 21st day of November, 2007 at the age of 58.

She will be missed by her loving mother, **Leonila Encarnacion**; husband **Edgardo**; children **Edgardo Jr. & Hellanor, Emil Roberto & Monalisa, Edison Michael & Whitney**, grandchildren; **Angela Marie & Angelo Gabriel**; & other relatives, friends, nurses, **Beth & Rose**.

Her cremated remains will be viewed in state at the Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City from the 21st until the 22nd day of November 2007. She will then be transferred for viewing at her residence at #10 Don Manuel St. Vesco Subdivision, San Pablo City, Laguna from 2:00 pm of 22nd until 12:00 noon of the 24th of November, 2007.

"Love does not die – people do. So when all that's left of me is love, give me away.
I'LL SEE YOU AT HOME IN HEAVEN..."

OBITUARIES

Most Rev. Jose F. Oliveros, D.D.
The CLERGY and Faithful of the Diocese of Malolos extend their sincerest prayers and condolences to the relatives and friends of

REV. FR. IRENEO ARLITO T. CABASAL

(1961-2007)

who peacefully joined his Creator, our Loving Father on November 17, 2007

His remains lie in state at:

1. St Joseph Parish, St. Francis Subd. Meycauayan November 17-20: 9:00 a.m.
2. San Antonio de Padua Parish, Iba, Hagonoy November 20-23: 9:00 a.m.
3. Family Residence, San Jose, Calumpit November 23-26

A funeral Mass will be offered on Monday, November 26, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Parish Church of St. Joseph Parish, San Jose, Calumpit

"Living or Dying, Lord Jesus, I would be Yours,
Keep me Your own forever,
Draw me day by day nearer to You
Until I am wholly filled with Your Love,"

"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, No one comes to the Father but through Me"
John 14:6

Juan Alcantara Acosta, Jr., M.D.

"Jun"

(October 20, 1942 - November 15, 2007)
Past Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus
Prince of Peace Council, Englishtown, New Jersey USA

now rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord last November 15, 2007, at the age of 65.

His bereaved and loving wife Dra. Angie, children Aileen, Jun-Jun and Jerry, brother Roger, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family ancestral residence, National Road, Brgy. Bolbok Batangas City, Batangas.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2007 at the Eternal Gardens, Balagtas, Batangas City, Batangas after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 1:00 p.m. at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church, Bolbok, Batangas City.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again." —2 Corinthians 5:4-5

In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of

Ramon Flameño Alcantara

Who peacefully joined our Creator on November 23, 2007

His loving wife **JULIETA** daughter **LYDIA & KENNY, TERRY & TED**; and son **MANNY**; grandchildren **JARYD, BRANDON, DOUGLAS, RAMON, ISABEL** together with his relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Masses will be offered for him at the following churches mass will be held on November 23, 2007:

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Enrique St., Palanan, Makati .... 7:00 a.m.
Malate Catholic Church, M.H. Del Pilar, Malate Manila .... 7:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Sorrow Parish, F.B. Harrison Pasig City .... 7:00 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.
Cathedral of St. Augustine, St. Benedict Church, St. Augustin Florida, USA
Queen of Peace Church, Gainsville, Florida, USA
Shrine Church of St. Ann, Bainbridge Ave., N.Y. USA

ANNOUNCEMENT

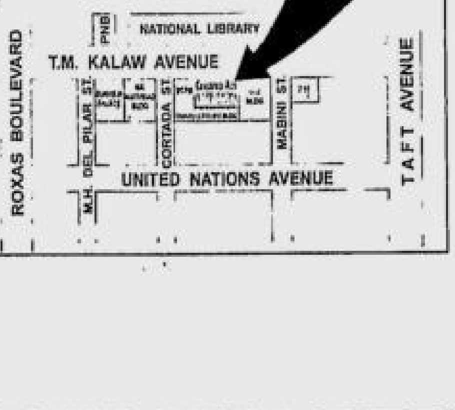
to our valued advertisers

PDI Kalaw Branch

has been transferred to:

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg.,
490 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
(in front of National Library)

To serve your advertising needs, please call
523-5570 (Trunk Line)
loc. 115 or 116
525-7023 • 525-7381



Death Notices

ELISEO C. LORENZANA
Jan. 29, 1913 - Nov. 18, 2007
Peacefully died at the age of 94.
His body lies at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapel (near Antipolo Church), Antipolo Rizal, Interment will be on Friday, Nov. 23, 2007.

JAIME ERNESTO B. BASA
March 6, 1960 - Nov. 12, 2007
His body will lie at Chapel Fir, Sanctuarium, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City as soon as the body arrives on the night of November 22, 2007 from Australia.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Unilab probes genes' link to TB treatment

FILIPINO MOLECULAR BIOLOGISTS AT the country's largest and leading pharmaceutical and healthcare company United Laboratories Inc (Unilab) studied the genetic variations in a human body called single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that could determine the body's response to TB treatment.

Unilab probed the link between the SNP typing of Filipinos and TB treatment to help doctors better understand the disease and determine more effective therapeutic regimen to Filipinos.

According to government data, TB is the sixth leading cause of death nationwide. This translates to 80 Filipinos dying from the disease daily, with two-thirds of the more than 85 million population harboring TB bacilli and about 463,000 are active TB cases. These figures put RP at ninth rank in TB incidence worldwide.

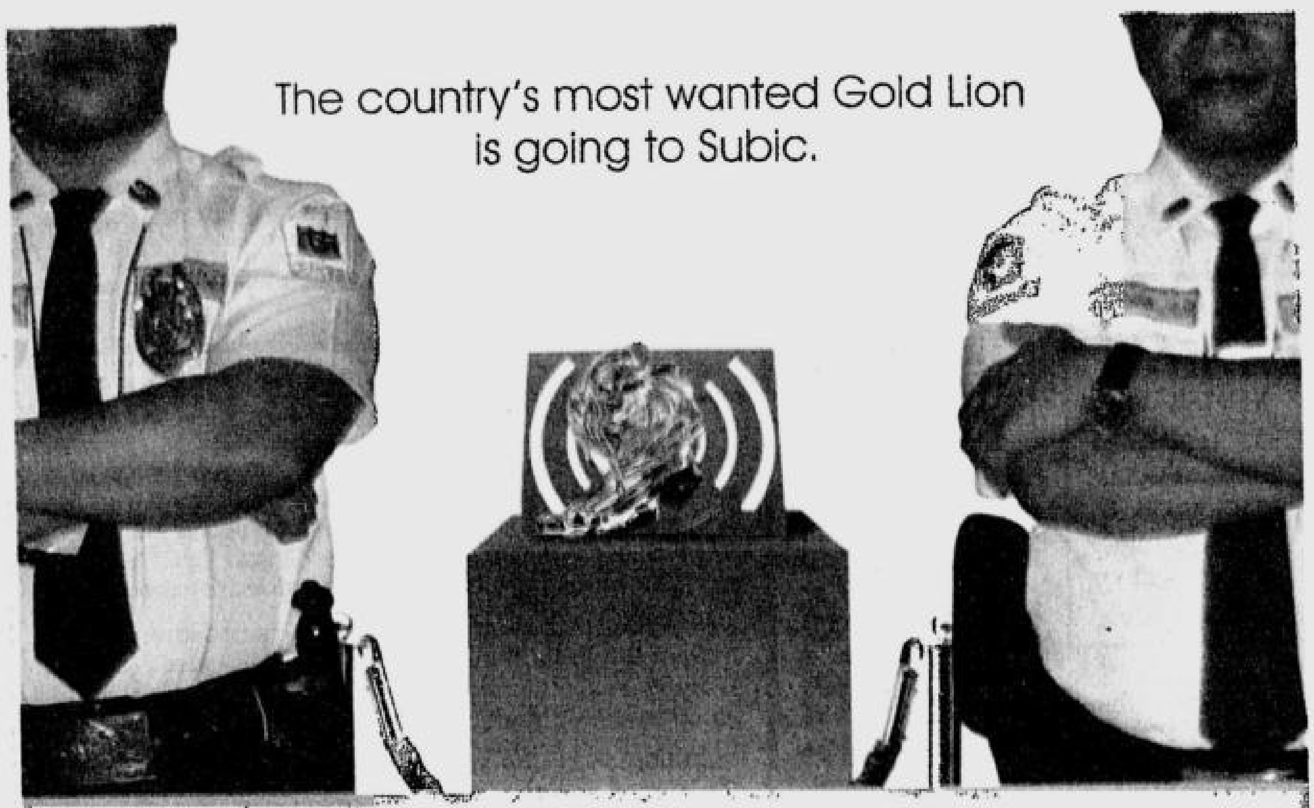
The Unilab research studied SNPs from the blood obtained from healthy Filipino volunteers. Further study into these SNPs revealed that 47.3 percent of Filipinos are rapid acetylators, meaning their body can quickly break down an anti-TB drug like isoniazid, and thus have low risk to the toxic effects of the drugs.

The 11.6 percent are slow acetylators, which means anti-TB drugs like isoniazid stays longer in the patients' blood, which may put them at a greater risk to the toxic effects of the drug.

"We plan to do more clinical studies on the remaining 41.1 percent of subjects who were found to be of the intermediate acetylator type," says Unilab medical director Alexander Tuazon, "Doing so will determine and verify the risk to isoniazid-induced liver toxicity."

Unilab's study provides better understanding of the link between the genetic variation of Filipino patients and TB drugs like isoniazid, and thus provides doctors with substantial information to more effectively determine the appropriate treatment to patients. Unilab is doing other studies of human genes' link to other diseases as part of its efforts to make healthcare products even better for Filipinos.

TIM CORP 16TH FRIENDSHIP BOWLING TOURNAMENT Jose Mari Antunez, president and CEO of Total Information Management Corp (left) and Ronnie Latinazo, wager of EMC Philippines, prepare for the ceremonial bowl to officially launch TIM's 16th Annual Friendship Bowling Tournament at the SM Mall of Asia Bowling Center in Pasay City recently. With EMC as co-sponsor this year, this widely-anticipated event in the local IT industry attracted a record of 30 companies from various sectors such as banking, insurance, government, telecommunications, and transportation. An international, inter-governmental agency is also included in the roster of participating teams.



Cannes Lions
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Official Festival Representative

From the most successful and record-breaking year in the history of Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, the Philippine Daily Inquirer proudly brings the Cannes Lions Winners' Edition 2007 Exhibit and Viewing - a three-day showcase of the world's creme de la creme of creativity representing today's standard of artistic excellence and world-class advertising.

WHERE: 20th Philippine Advertising Congress
2nd Floor Subic Bay Exhibition
and Convention Center
WHEN: November 22 - 24, 2007

THE NEW ORDER

SCREENING SCHEDULE

November 22, Thursday
10:00AM Opening Ceremony
11:00AM 1st Screening
12:30-1:30PM Lunch Break
2:00PM 2nd Screening
4:00PM 3rd Screening

November 23, Friday
9:00AM 1st Screening
11:00AM 2nd Screening
12:30-1:30PM Lunch Break
2:00PM 3rd Screening
4:00PM 4th Screening

November 24, Saturday
9:00AM Last Screening
12:00NN Closing

SPONSORED BY
Panasonic
ideas for life

REMINDERS: The Winners Edition 2007 Exhibit will be open to guests from 8:30AM - 5:30PM except on November 24 (closing) and will be closed during lunch break.

BITS Clips

A season of early Christmas blow-outs at Wendy's

AS YULETIDE SALES AND ENTICING BARGAINS PROLIFERATE THE metro, Wendy's has introduced another innovative promo as an early holiday cheer for all its customers: offering its hot-off-the-grill 100 percent pure beef hamburgers for an impossibly low P5.00! Never before has its juicy hamburgers been offered practically for free. Just order a Biggie Iced Tea and customers can avail of this most generous offer. Running until Dec. 9, Wendy's is sending out a message of true Christmas spirit, the spirit of giving and sharing. And it is through this promo that Wendy's recognizes and expresses its thanks to its loyal customers, by providing high-quality, great tasting food at real value.

Happy Feet acquires Striders

HAPPY FEET ACQUIRES STRIDERS SHOES, A TEN-YEAR OLD CHILDREN'S AND MEN'S brand. The acquisition broadens the product line of Happy Feet and represents Happy Feet's full entry into the children's shoe market. It further complements Happy Feet's own line of full-warranty children's shoes. Striders Shoes will benefit from Happy Feet's vision of quality and comfort. Striders Shoes are available at selected SM Department Stores and Happy Feet outlets in Wilson Street in San Juan, Gil Fernando Avenue in Marikina and Festival Mall in Alabang.

Risen, the Musical

LIGHTHOUSE THEATER AND THE GREAT LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION PRESENT RISEN, THE Musical - an English-Filipino play celebrating the risen life of Jesus Christ. Directed by Jeena Marquez-Manaois, it will be shown on Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Reuben Abante's Lighthouse Bible Baptist Temple, Quezon City. For details and tickets contact Abigail Hernandez at 0916-6778773.

NCO Group Philippines holds job fair caravan

THE NCO GROUP PHILIPPINES, ONE OF THE LEADING BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) companies worldwide is holding a series of job fairs on the following dates and venues: Nov. 22, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Mandaluyong City Hall; and on Nov. 23, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Sachi Japanese Cuisine at Araneta Coliseum Circle, Cubao. Explore an exciting call center career at NCO, where you can enjoy great company benefits, performance based bonuses, and significant opportunities for growth and career advancement. The company is looking for individuals with excellent English communication skills who can fill the positions for technical support, customer service, directory assistance, sales and collections. On the spot interviews and exams will also be conducted in all venues of the job fair caravan. The NCO Group Philippines Recruitment Center is located at the 5/F ELJ Communications Center (ABS CBN Compound) Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City. The center is open Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Interested applicants may call the recruitment hotline at 981-7564 to 85 or e-mail manila-recruitment@ncogroup.com.

Colegio de Sta. Rosa Makati Alumni Homecoming

CALLING ON ALL GRADUATES OF COLEGIO DE STA. ROSA MAKATI. AN ALUMNI HOMEcoming will be happening on Jan. 18, 2008, from 3 p.m. onwards at the CSR grounds. It will be hosted by batch '83, silver jubilarians in cooperation with batch '79, pearl jubilarians. For inquiries contact Jenny Manuel at 0915-3093808.

Trips, other prizes up for grabs in Jollibee Asian Express Promo

FULFILLING CRAVINGS FOR FRESH AND DELICIOUS JOLLIBEE DISHES AND DESSERTS HAS never been this rewarding. Getaway to excitement with trips to Asia's hottest destinations with Jollibee Express Delivery Service's (JEDS) Asian Express Promo. Just call 8-7000 Jollibee Delivery to order your langhap-sarap favorites and have it delivered straight to your doorstep along with the chance to win amazing trips for two to Hong Kong Disneyland, Singapore, or Bangkok, Thailand. For every P100 worth of JEDS transaction in a single receipt, customers can earn one electronic raffle ticket that can take them to these lively urban locales and dream destinations. Get your officemates together or treat the family to Jollibee's best-selling langhap-sarap products and earn even more e-raffle tickets. You can also upgrade any Coke drink (Coke, Coke Light and Sprite) to large sizes and get twice the number of raffle tickets earned per transaction. Minimum purchase required for every JEDS order is P165. The major tour prizes include roundtrip tickets; three-day, two-night hotel accommodations with free breakfast; return transfers; and Disneyland passes (for Hong Kong winner) for two. Prizes of five P10,000 Ayala Malls electronic gift certificates (EGCs) and 20 Apple Ipod shuffles will also be given away. Keep calling 8-7000 Jollibee Delivery and make every order an even more delicious experience with the JEDS Asian Express Promo. The promo will run until Dec. 31. For more details, see posters and print ads.

The Fe Del Mundo Medical Center celebrates 50th year

THE FE DEL MUNDO MEDICAL CENTER WILL CELEBRATE ITS 50TH FOUNDATION DAY AT THE hospital grounds on Nov. 26 and 27. The celebration will coincide with the birthday of its founder Dr. Fe del Mundo. The highlight of the affair is the inauguration of Dr. del Mundo's memorabilia. This will showcase her contribution for the healthcare of the Filipino child in the past 50 years. The launching of the Bulilit project using the youth as health communicator will also be launched. A mass on Nov. 27 will open the affair for the formal re-opening of the hospital and the inauguration of Dr. del Mundo's memorabilia to be celebrated by Fr. Vito Dequilla.

ING Bank, Finex set to honor outstanding CFO

THE FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX) AND ING BANK N.V. MANILA branch are all set to recognize the Philippines most outstanding finance professional with the CFO of the Year award. The much anticipated awarding ceremony, slated for Nov. 29, culminates an extensive months-long nationwide search for the country's finest and most exemplary chief finance officer. The principal selection criteria for the CFO of the Year are based on the values of integrity, leadership, effective stewardship, and specific instances of wealth creation in finance and financial services that are worthy of recognition by peers. The selection of the outstanding CFO is also based on the CFO's contributions to the reputation and stature of the CFO role, contributions to the fulfillment of the strategic objectives of an organization, and excellence in the stewardship of an organization. The CFO of the Year trophy was designed by acclaimed glass sculptor Ramon Orlina. The original 10-inch-tall trophy is a polished glass figure comprised of two semi-circles resting on a solid base. The circles represent the continuity of commerce, and the two halves represent the harmonious interdependence of management and labor. For more information on the CFO of the Year award, visit www.finex.org.ph.

Tribal DDB president speaks at 20th PAC

AMANDA KING SHARES THE LATEST TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS ON digital marketing from all over the world during the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress in Subic. Amanda is president of Tribal DDB, Asia Pacific, one of the leading interactive companies in the world. Over the last three years, Tribal DDB has won more than 100 awards for innovation and effectiveness - from Cannes Gold Lions, to Best of Show, to Clios, Andys and Effies. Amanda started her career as one of the first data planners in London, tying psychographics to demographics. She moved to Australia and set up her own company, Octopus, a full service agency that won clients like MasterCard, Westpac and Optus. After 8 successful years WPP purchased the agency and Amanda was head hunted to work for the Publicis group. Here she managed the successful growth of their integrated suite of companies. In early 2000 she joined DDB Sydney as head of all non-advertising companies which included Rapp Collins, Tribal, Mango (PR) and Remedy. During this period each company grew significantly and achieved record profits. Innovation has driven her career and her passion is to work with people who want to redefine the communications world.

Ralph Lauren Fragrances, Ford Philippines explore partnership

L'OREAL'S PCI FRAGRANCES Group and Ford Group Philippines recently teamed up to unveil Ralph Lauren's newest fragrance for men inspired by adventure -- the Polo Explorer. Offering the perfect combination of ruggedness and refinement, Polo Explorer was launched Nov. 8, via a showcase of high-end travel and discovery.

The launch began with a pre event and registration at Power Up Silvercity in Tiendesitas where guests were invited to go on several challenges as well as a journey of sorts via Ford's newest release, the 2007 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer Edition. They went around the world in Hotel Sofitel, formerly Westin Philippine Plaza, with the help of Joey Cuerdo where they experienced travel and adventure they will nowhere else experience.

Sophisticated and sensuous, Polo Explorer is made for a man who craves adventure and discovery. Taking one beyond boundaries, the fragrance was developed with the finest quality ingredients from around the world, creating the perfect balance between a strong masculinity and a comforting ease.

The Ford Explorer, on the other hand, is recognized for its unparalleled luxury, power and safety, catering to the needs of the accomplished lot that demand nothing but the best in their vehicles. With the Eddie Bauer badge denoting premium styling and design, it has changed the face of SUVs, proving that rugged, truck-like functionality and off-road durability could be combined with style and comfort.

Both brands are determined to satisfy the needs of its core customers - the Polo Explorer, by matching action-seekers with a scent that is refreshing as it is masculine, and the Ford Explorer by serving as the automotive soulmate to those who put great emphasis on SUVs as both functional vehicles, at the same time fashion statements. Together, the two strong brands serve as the perfect partner for thrill-seeking men, both spelling rugged masculinity and luxury.

P60,000
P60,000

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK FETES TOP BROKERS
As a way of honoring its accredited housing loan brokers, BPI Family Savings Bank (BFSB) recently hosted an exclusive get-together of BPI Unibankers and brokers at the Hard Rock Café in Makati City. Its 3rd Quarterly Bonus Raffle Draw gave away free trips to Asian destinations, BPI Get Started Savings accounts, and Sodexho Premium Passes to lucky brokers. BFSB also offers the All Star Grandslam rewards program to top brokers where every successful housing loan referral gives cash incentives and gift certificates from various merchants. The event also recognized brokers who showed outstanding performance during the third quarter of the year. Shown in photo are (from left) housing loan account officer Chito Yacapin; marketing assistants Mae Regala, Lea Piloton and Grace Deuna; first prize winner, Rowena Ganibo; BPIFSB president, Alfonso Salcedo Jr; brokers channel head, AVP Ruel Magtoto and housing loan account officer Charlie Morelos.

Otsuka Pharma I-Stroke Club to benefit thousands of patients

THIS YEAR, 15 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDwide, will suffer from stroke. Five million will die and another five million will be permanently disabled.

This grim forecast comes from the World Health Organization that says high blood pressure is responsible for over 12 million strokes worldwide. Other risk factors are family history of stroke, age, sex (women are more likely to die of stroke than men), high blood cholesterol levels, cigarette smoking, diabetes, obesity, use of birth control pills, hormone therapy, heavy drinking, use of illicit drugs like cocaine, methamphetamine HCl, and uncontrolled stress.

In the United States alone, stroke is responsible for more than 150,000 deaths a year, making it the third leading cause of death next to heart disease and cancer. Fifty percent of those deaths usually occur outside the hospital, according to the Internet Stroke Center, a non-profit, educational service of the Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

In the Philippines, stroke affects 486 out of 100,000 Filipinos or roughly half a million Filipinos, according to Dr. Jose Navarro of the Philippine Neurological Association (PNA) in his study published in The Philippine Journal of Neurology. Of that number, one-third will die over the next year revealed C.P. Warlow in "Stroke: A Practical Guide to Management." Compounding the problem is the shortage of doctors who can help these patients.

"There are less than 300 neurologists in the country or one for every 300,000 patients. This puts many Filipinos at risk for stroke and its life-threatening complications," according to PNA vice president Dr. Johnny Lokin.

To alleviate and improve stroke prevention, management, and treatment in the Philippines, Otsuka (Philippines) Pharmaceutical Inc. (OPPI) introduced its I-Stroke (Information on Stroke Issues, Prevention and Treatment) campaign during the 35th Annual PNA Convention in Cagayan de Oro City from Nov. 21-24. The program aims to provide patients with essential and vital information about stroke and would empower them to make the right decisions on stroke prevention and treatment. Increasing awareness will hopefully reduce the number of deaths associated with the condition.

As part of its campaign, OPPI will open an I-Stroke Patient Club for stroke patients, their families, and people at risk of stroke. For more information on stroke prevention and treatment, the OPPI I-Stroke Hotline is available for interested parties. Call the I-Stroke Hotline at 811-4723 for GMA and 1-800-1888-4723 for provincial calls.

Stroke is the sudden interruption in the blood supply of the brain. This usually occurs when a blood vessel bursts (hemorrhagic stroke) or is blocked by a blood clot or some other particle (ischemic stroke). Of the two, ischemic strokes are the most common.

The symptoms of stroke are sudden weakness of the face, arm or leg, usually on one side of the body. Other signs are sudden numbness on one side of the body, confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech, trouble seeing in one or both eyes, difficulty walking, dizziness, loss of balance or a severe headache. Since this occurs rapidly, stroke is also called brain attack. If symptoms last for less than an hour, this is called a transient ischemic attack (TIA) or mini-stroke.

For stroke prevention, patients are advised to keep blood pressure under control, lower cholesterol and fat intake, avoid smoking, drink alcohol moderately, manage weight, exercise regularly, and manage stress. Currently for medical treatment of ischemic symptoms and prevention of secondary stroke, your doctor may prescribe anti-platelet agents like cilostazol (Pletaal). Platelets are cells in your blood that initiate clots and anti-platelets make the platelets less likely to clot.

The Nissan Frontier Navara

SOMEDAY, ALL PICKUPS WILL BE MADE THIS WAY.

It was the middle of this year when Universal Motors Corporation allowed a select few to take a sneak peek at the all-new Nissan Frontier Navara.

Never has the tag "all-new" been more appropriate; and never has the legendary pickup looked so good.

Reworked in a multitude of ways, the Navara is all that ever made the Frontier great. And – as we found out – a hell of a lot more.

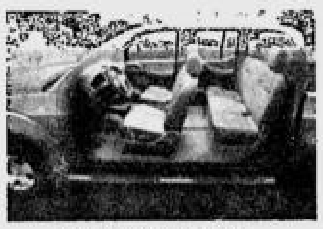
BREAKING THE MOLD & RAISING THE BAR.
Call it the Tiger Woods of trucks – for like the celebrated golfer, the Navara is so far ahead of the curve, its arrival on the scene is not just the changing of the guard, it signals a change in the very nature of the game. Indeed, if you think you know all about pickups, think again.

TRUCK OUT BACK, SUV UP FRONT.
For a vehicle meant to do the crude, ugly jobs, the Navara comes with an incredible amount of style and refinement. It is a study in sturdiness and aerodynamics, with flared wheel arches, and crisp, smooth lines.

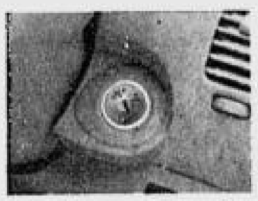
The new pickup's design theme is a departure from the Frontiers we know. With its integrated overfender and front bumper, imposing grillwork, and hulking stance, the Navara's physique resembles that of its full-sized brother, the Nissan Titan. Sleeker and sexier, it now stands on 16-inch alloy wheels. Front foglamps come standard, as do chrome side mirror housings, and side step tubes.

A front independent suspension with coil springs coupled with longer rear leaf springs provide a smoother ride.

Inside, cabin comforts rival those of the best SUVs. The dash is trimmed in handsome beige and a brushed metal-like finish. Seats are clad in beige leather (standard on 4x4 models), and you sit high up in a commanding position, with all controls well within reach. A shift-on-the-fly system allows you to engage 4WD from 2WD with the simple turn of a dial, all without having to stop.


a cabin clad in beige and brushed metal

shift-on-the-fly


illuminated ignition switch

Other conveniences abound, like the illuminated ignition switch (no more fumbling in the dark) and the assortment of bins, holders and cubbyholes for everything from maps to water bottles.

It is enough to prompt critics to call the Navara "the closest thing a truck comes to a proper car."

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING FIRST AND ONLY.
Excellence is part of the Navara's pedigree. The Nissan Frontier is the first and only truck line to hold the Number One spot (based on number of units sold) for four consecutive years.

six-speed manual transmission

The Navara keeps the Frontier tradition of innovation, once again reinventing the pickup and setting a new benchmark with 6 SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSION. Unheard of in pickups, the new innovation promises enhanced performance and better fuel efficiency.

It doesn't end there. When it comes to firsts, Nissan seems to have pulled out all the stops.

Consider these: THE LARGEST FUEL TANK CAPACITY (80L, perfect for long journeys into the rough) and the first to offer standard BRAKE ASSIST for sure footing during stops. The Frontier is also the only pickup to use a LADDER TYPE FRAME WITH 8 CROSS MEMBERS for added rigidity and strength to handle heavy duty cargo, and to limit body roll.

ladder frame with 8 cross members

MORE ROOM!
The new Navara is a massive 5,230mm long. Its cockpit area is thus larger, and built to more car-like dimensions, providing a better driving experience and a more comfortable ride for passengers in the rear. Most of the wheelbase increase pushes the rear wheels further backwards, and the payoff is that the Navara has a wider, deeper bed, giving you a larger load area.

MOST POWER!
Hauling all that load is the work of a YD25DDTi 2nd Generation Common Rail Turbo Intercooler Diesel Engine – the most powerful one around – pumping out 174 HORSEPOWER RATING AND 403 Nm OF TORQUE for 4WD, THE MOST IN ITS CLASS. That's more than enough to climb muddy inclines or tow a trailerful of goods. All with minimal emissions and engine vibration.

SAFETY ZONE.
The Navara's construction conforms to Nissan's patented ZONE BODY CONCEPT, with designated crumple zones to absorb the energy of an impact, and a rigid safety zone to shelter occupants from harm.

most powerful engine in its class

The cabin space features 2 SRS FRONT AIRBAGS, side impact beams to guard against broadside crashes, and 3-point front and rear seatbelts. Safeguarding driver control on and off-road, a Limited Slip Differential (standard on 4x4 models) reassigns power to the wheels with greatest traction. ABS prevents wheel lock during sudden stops, and ELECTRONIC BRAKEFORCE DISTRIBUTION balances braking power between the truck's front and rear end – vital help, especially with a fully loaded bed. A 3rd brake lamp provides early warning to following cars.

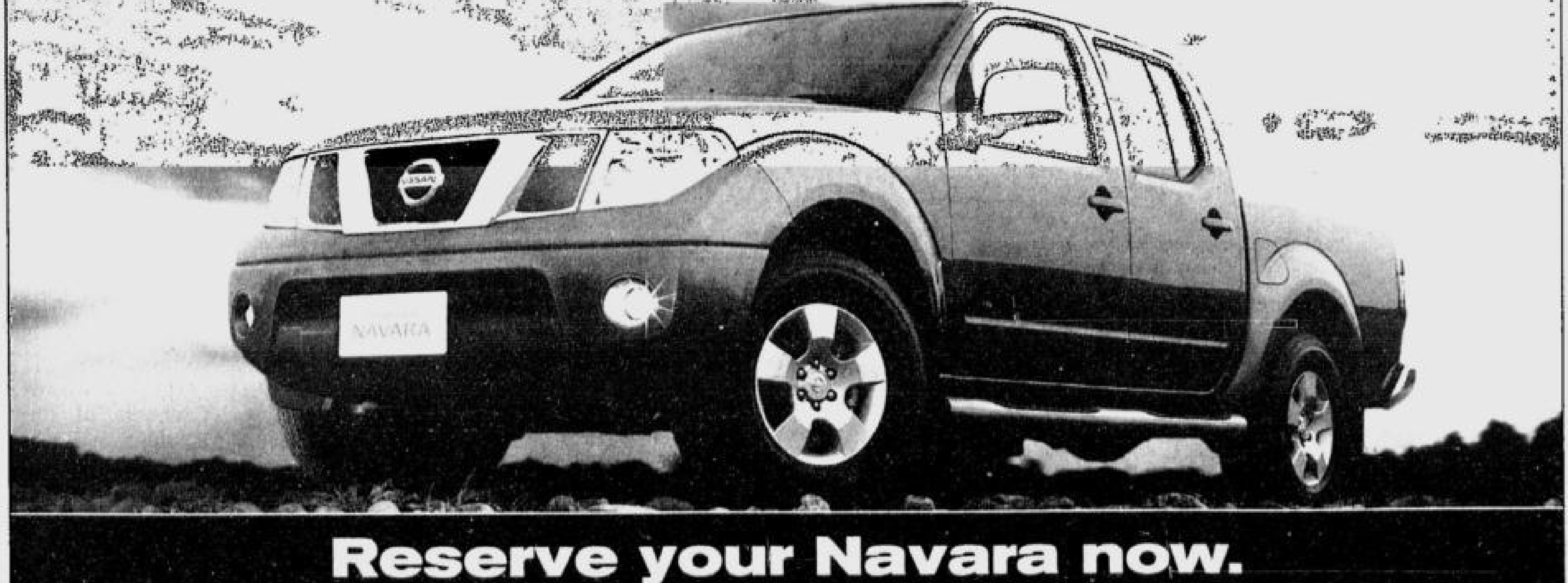
ABS, Load Sensing Valve & Electronic Brakeforce Distribution

THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR PICKUPS.
There is, perhaps, no pickup out there that packs more innovation per square inch than the new Frontier Navara. This here, is one giant leap for truck kind. And as is always the case with pickups of the Frontier lineage, it won't be long before the rest of truckdom follows suit.

THE RULES REWRITTEN:
Navara's class leading stats
- First with 6 speed MT
- Most Horsepower and Torque at 174 Ps and 403 Nm
- Longer wheelbase for more bed and cabin room
- Unique 8 member ladder frame for more strength
- Largest fuel tank in its class at 80L

Exclusively distributed by Universal Motors Corp. Available in 4x4 and 4x2, with 6-speed M/T or 5-speed A/T.

The Frontier Navara. Arriving December 03, 2007.



Reserve your Navara now.
Text NAVARA + your name, address, contact number and inquiry to 0918-8NISSAN
or visit the Nissan dealer nearest you.

FIRST MULTINATIONAL DEAL

Japan, Asean welcome new trade agreement

SINGAPORE—LEADERS OF JAPAN AND the 10-nation Asean bloc yesterday hailed the conclusion of talks on a free trade pact, which they hope to implement as early as next year.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and his counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) put the finishing touches on the deal here.

No date has been set for its formal signing.

"The leaders welcomed the successful conclusion of the negotiations for the Asean-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement," a joint statement released after the meeting said.

"The leaders expressed confidence that the agreement will provide a strong impetus for further invigoration of trade and investment."

Under the deal, about 90 percent of trade between the world's second largest economy and the Southeast Asian bloc will be tariff-free within 10 years.

The deal will be the first multinational free trade agreement for Japan, which also has been seeking to conclude a flurry of bilateral pacts amid a breakdown in global trade negotiations.

Tokyo has so far reached bilateral deals with eight nations thus far, six of which are in the Asean group—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The two others are Chile and Mexico.

Japan's regional rivals China and South Korea have also sealed economic partnerships with Asean, but a Japanese official told reporters that Tokyo's deal was the best of the lot.

"The economic partnership between Japan and Asean is comprehensive, covering not only cutting tariffs on products but also many other areas such as service, investment and economic cooperation," the official said.

"In that sense, Japan is not behind moves by China and South Korea."

South Korea's trade deal with Asean went into effect earlier this year, while Asean and China are expected to form a bilateral free trade area by 2010, which would cover nearly two billion people.

Japan is exploring the possibility of a wider East Asia trade deal that would include Asean plus Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, but observers say that process is in its infancy.

"The vision of a trade pact among Asean and the six nations is slowly coming together," said a Japanese trade official who asked not to be named.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Sing apore, Thailand and Vietnam.

AFP

PSBank Prime Time Deposit

6.0%*

Guaranteed

- Minimum of PhP 50,000
- 5-year placement, tax-free
- Accessible monthly income

* Rate is per annum and subject to change without prior notice.

Manage your account online via PSBank Remote Banking.
Open a time deposit now in any of 163 branches nationwide.

For more information, text PSBANK PRIME <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks, or visit our website at www.psbank.com.ph

Member of the PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor is P250,000.

Six Asian nations plan common exchange

BANGKOK—SIX SOUTHEAST ASIAN countries plan to set up a common stock exchange for easier cross-border trading in big-cap stocks, an official at the Thai bourse said yesterday.

Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam would jointly set up an exchange for regional trading in late 2008, according to Nongram Wongwanich, a senior executive vice president of the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET).

Under the plan, large-cap shares in each participating country could be exchanged on the new trading board.

Bid and offer prices would still be conducted in the currency of each company's home country. Trading orders would also be executed in company's home country, Nongram said.

"The objective in setting up this common market is to boost the attractiveness of the Asian market, where individual market sizes are still small, in order to draw interest from foreign investors," Nongram said.

"This initiative will make the Asian market a single product for investors, who currently have to take time and consume lots of capital to make their investment in each local bourse," she told AFP.

Nongram said chiefs of each of the six stock exchanges are scheduled to meet in Bangkok on Sunday to work out details of the initiative, including how to adjust regulations on money transfers between participating nations to make trading easier.

"Hopefully some of those currently trading on the SET50 index could be traded in the new market late next year," she said.

AFP

BDO issues P10B in tier 2 debt notes

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCO DE ORO-EPCI, THE country's second largest bank, yesterday issued P10 billion in subordinated debt notes that will qualify as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

BDO doubled its original offer from P5 billion following the successful roadshow in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

BDO said the offering was oversubscribed by more than three times.

Proceeds from the fund-raising exercise will be used to further expand BDO's consumer loan portfolio and to refinance its existing issue of Lower Tier 2 debt, which is set to come due next year.

"The notes will also increase and strengthen BDO's capital base, ensuring that it has available capital for its growth plans in the coming years," the bank said in a statement.

BDO, a unit of conglomerate SM Investments Corp. and owned by one of the country's richest men, Henry Sy Sr., leap-frogged Bank of the Philippine Islands to become the country's second-largest lender after its formal takeover of Equitable PCI Bank earlier this year.

The 10-year notes will yield 7 percent a year until the fifth year or 2012, during which the bank can opt to pay off investors.

If BDO decides not to exercise its call option after the fifth year, interest rates for the remaining term will rise by 150 basis points.

British bank HSBC acted as the lead arranger and selling agent for the offering and will also act as the notes' market maker and trustee.

One of the major participants in the offer was the International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank and an existing minority shareholder of BDO.

DA promotes new postharvest systems

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture (DA) is promoting the use of six types of postharvest technologies to palay farmers.

This is part of the array of government interventions being carried out to cut postharvest losses for grains production this year and further raise incomes in the countryside.

The six types of rice postharvest technologies are the DA-developed rice hull-fed furnace system, the use of a grain moisture meter, in-store drying, integrated pest management, flatbed drying and outdoor storage.

DA Director Ricardo Cachuela of the Bureau of Postharvest Research and Extension (BPRE) said in a report to DA Secretary Arthur Yap that the rice hull-fed furnace or flatbed drying system, which uses biomass as an alternative heat source for mechanical dryers, was ideal for rainy season harvests and effectively preserves seed viability.

The grain moisture meter, which measures the moisture content in palay and corn, helps farmers acquire speedy, accurate and reliable readings.

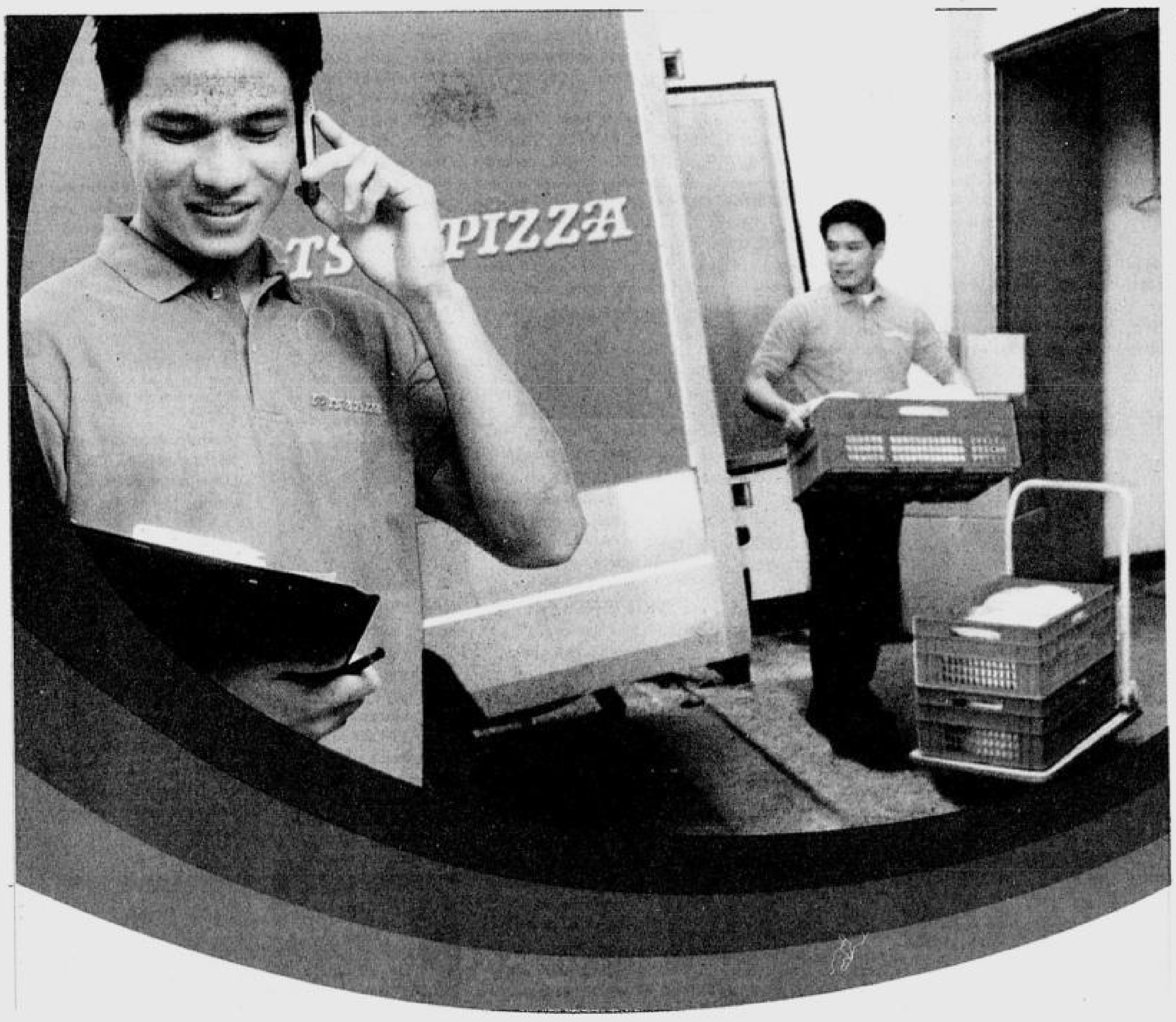
Flatbed dryers reduce energy costs by 56 percent and are easy to maintain.

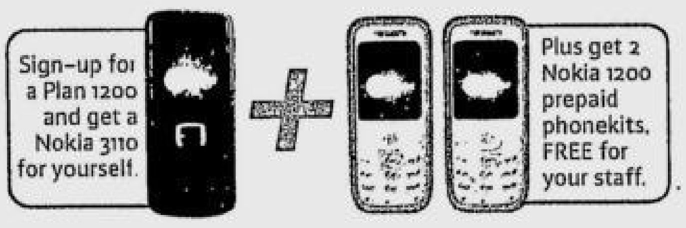
In-store dryers act as a second-stage dryer after the grains have been predried in a flash dryer.

Cachuela said this two-stage drying system was necessary during the wet season when the grain has more than 22 percent moisture content.

The integrated pest management system, on the other hand, helps preserve farm produce from the onslaught of pests and involves a combination of physical, biological and chemical controls.

Lastly, the outdoor storage system helps preserve grain quality and assures adequate protection for grains from drought, floods and pest outbreaks.





Follow up your employees without following them around

It's easy with SME Postpaid Plus!

Sign-up for a Plan 1200 and get a Nokia 3110 for yourself. + Plus get 2 Nokia 1200 prepaid phonekits, FREE for your staff.

And because the phonekits are automatically loaded every month with P100, there's no need for employee communication allowances. Choose from different plans that fit your needs.

For more info about the SME Postpaid Plus and other Globe services, email sme@globetel.com.ph or call (02) 730-1288 or 1-800-8-730-1288 (toll-free via Globe).

Sa Globe, laging konektado kaya madali ang pag-asenso.

Globe™ Business

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5200, Series of 2007. Promo period is from October 17, 2007 to December 31, 2007. See posters and flyers for more details.

© 2007 Globe Telecom, Inc

LIFESTYLE

Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

nquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

FITNESS ◉ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◉ THURSDAY FOOD ◉ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

IN THIS ISSUE

▣ **How to give Thanksgiving a Pinoy touch?** 6 chefs show us/C2

IMEE Marcos (in green) with brother Bongbong, who is an Ilocos Norte representative, sister Irene and mom Imelda, the former First Lady

Dishing out a whole experience

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

IMEE MARCOS COULD not have picked a better venue to celebrate her birthday, a place that so befits her personality: colorful, eclectic, sophisticated, zany, fun and downright "*lukis*!"

What else could the place be but Café Juanita.

In the company of her family and friends, we feasted on Molo, Twice-Cooked Adobo, Phad Thai, Fried Lapu-lapu with

DISHING/ C3

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala Culinary Arts Studio
Since 1970 AT 181 SHAW BLVD., COR. PASIG BLVD.
TEL. NOS 671-4498 • 671-4472 • 671-4489

For the complete schedule of our new Hands On, Demonstration-Student Participation, Easy, Exact, Money Making Courses for Beginners and Non Beginners. Visit our website @
www.sylviareynosogala.com

Paolo Abrera's Balancing Act

Slow Down

In the fast-paced world we live in today, we tend to forget to slow down and enjoy the fun things in life. Stress and pressure, more often than not, make us feel tired and weary, therefore hindering wellness for our body and soul.

What we need to have is a balanced lifestyle, a philosophy espoused by the Coca - Cola Company. It is a balancing act that deals with getting the right amount of physical activity, the right kind of food to eat and enough time to experience happiness.

Savor Life

The Coca-Cola Company endeavors to fulfill this by offering a wide array of softdrinks that completes a balanced lifestyle. In every bottle of our favorite softdrinks, is an experience of happiness that refreshes our body and soul.

Sportscaster and athlete, Paolo Abrera shares the same philosophy. He defines balanced lifestyle as "a lifestyle where you combine duties and priorities, to maximize your experience and get the most out of life." He achieves this by being effective at multi-tasking, or in his words "hitting many birds with a few stones".

He is able to balance priorities namely work, family and his active lifestyle through simple routines: riding his bike to work, holding cycling classes as a part-time job and spending "quality swim-time" with his children.

Happier State of Mind

The Coca - Cola Company encourages everyone to get the most out of life by maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Have a balanced diet everyday, engage in a lot of physical activity and get enough rest.

Develop a clearer perspective on how to manage life's priorities and needs and have a happier state of mind. Do what you need to do and cherish every refreshing bottle of your favorite softdrink.

The Coca-Cola Company
bawat patak, mahalaga™
www.bawatpatakmahalaga.com.ph

GET EVERYTHING YOU WANT OUT OF YOUR LIFE.

My happiness comes from living a balanced life.
As a sportscaster and athlete,
I balance everything everyday!
I maintain a balanced diet,
get a lot of physical activity, enough rest,
and drink what makes me happy!

Paolo Abrera
Sportscaster and Athlete

A balanced life is a Sparkling Life.

The Coca-Cola Company
bawat patak, mahalaga™
www.bawatpatakmahalaga.com.ph

Thanksgiving dinner a la Pinoy

6 chefs tell us how to give the traditional turkey spread a Filipino twist

Compiled by Vangie Baga-Reyes

TODAY IS THANKSGIVING Day for the Americans. While as a people we don't need another excuse to have a family gathering (like Sundays aren't enough), we can sure use a traditional day for giving thanks as a nation.

Chef, food editor and television host Nancy Reyes-Lumen says if we ever have a Filipino Thanksgiving Day, it should be sometime "in May when it's the harvest season."

But what to be thankful for? Hmmm, that's a tough one.

While we're thinking that one out, and since it may take an act of Congress to declare our own Thanksgiving Day, why not, for the meantime, just add a Pinoy twist to the American traditional spread of stuffed roast turkey, baked yam with marshmallow topping, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes with gravy and pumpkin pie?

Here is how some chefs would "Filipinize" the traditional gobble-gobble dinner:

Nancy Reyes-Lumen,
Cook Magazine editor and TV host

I will order jumbo chicken from Magnolia, the three-kilogram size or bigger. If not that, a fat duck or *bibe*. Of course, being the adobo queen, I will adobo this whole then roast just to brown it. My adobo sauce will be the gravy. Instead of cranberry, I will have mango and guava jelly, plus *inihaw* slices of cassava and kamote, the yellow kind. The gravy will be chopped liver and *balunbalunan* adobo sauce. The veggies will be new corn harvest, string beans and carrots. Dessert will be candied *saba* with sampaguita essence and passion fruit nectar. And *dayap* tea for beverage. *Ang sarap*!

Ed Quimson,
JAKA Group corporate executive chef

I will prepare Cream of Kalabasa with Kakang Gata swirl, Rellenong Lechon de Leche with Rellenong Manok stuffing, Fruit Salad Pie with Graham Cracker crust topped with grated buko and Magnolia quickmelt cheese, Baked Camote and Ube with marshmallow."

Myrna Segismundo,
Restaurant 9501 executive chef

I will apply Filipino cooking recipes and procedures to give the traditional Thanksgiving menu a Filipino flavor. We can make a pumpkin soup topped with chicharon. A roast turkey will have a relleno stuffing of longganisa, bread and ground meat. You can opt to serve the stuffing on the side with the usual liver gravy. Replace cranberry sauce with assorted pickled vegetables like atchara. Cinnamon yams can be *minatamis na kamote*. For a healthier meal, serve upland red rice or brown rice with dried local fruits, such as mango and pineapple.

For dessert, it has to be Guapple Pie with vanilla ice cream. You can also offer nicely aged Ilocos *basi* or mango rum.

Christian Werdenberg,
Sofitel Hotel executive chef

I would adapt traditional recipes with local flavors and ingredients. An example would be turkey stuffing which I would make adobo-flavored. Traditional dried apricots and prunes could be substituted with dried mangoes. A pineapple relish would replace the traditional cranberry sauce. I will make maple-glazed kamote and pumpkin, Pumpkin Pie flavored with *dayap* and the traditional Key Lime Pie will be converted to Calamansi Pie. I will include Bibingka, Puto Bumbong, Adobo Pie, Baboy Humba, Embotido Pate *en croute* and Beef Morcon.

TURKEY Ballotine

Carlo Miguel,
Mezzaluna executive chef

The turkey is a blank canvas that blends harmoniously with flavors from all corners of the globe. It can be applied to many traditional Filipino preparations, such as *longanisa*, *adobo*, *kaldereta*, *afritada* or even Bicol express just to name a few.

Giving it a Filipino twist can be as simple as adding Knorr seasoning in the turkey gravy or using candied *kamote* with vanilla custard for dessert.

At Mezzaluna, we have done a maple and brandy-cured turkey that ensures a very tender and slightly sweet flesh. We have also done a Turkey Leg Ballotine which is cooked *sous vide* (vacuum packed) style to give the galantine-like filling optimum tenderness and juiciness.

Though food is important in the Filipino lifestyle it is best to remember what Thanksgiving is really about—gathering with friends and family and being thankful for all our blessings.

Adam Mathis,
The Peninsula Manila executive chef

My take on this very traditional meal is to introduce a variety of lighter and healthier options using techniques, flavors or ingredients familiar to Filipino palates. We eat more than what is necessary at Thanksgiving anyway, and I don't see why we can't make it a tad more forgiving to one's arteries.

For salad, I would have Charred Hearts of Romaine with Fennel, Ubod (heart of palm) and Orange-Ancho Vinaigrette.

For appetizer, it's going to be Turkey Skin Rolls with Roasted Pineapple. (*Simply remove crispy skin from turkey. Trim fat. Cut into small pieces. Shred turkey meat into fine julienne. Mix with sweet soy bean paste. Grill pineapple until nicely brown. Soak sheet of rice wrapper in cold water till soft. Spread on kitchen towel to absorb moisture. Arrange some turkey meat, roasted pineapple, cucumber and bell pepper on rice paper and roll to form a spring roll-shaped parcel. Mix hoisin sauce with water to thin paste. Serve.*)

For the main course, it's Pan-seared Turkey Breast, Chanterelles and Baby Leeks with Port Wine-Dayap Jus. It would be nice if one could get an organic turkey.

Dessert will be Caramelized Pineapple Napoleon with Coconut Custard and Vanilla-Tapioca Sauce and Leche Flan (I know it's not very healthy but it is good!)

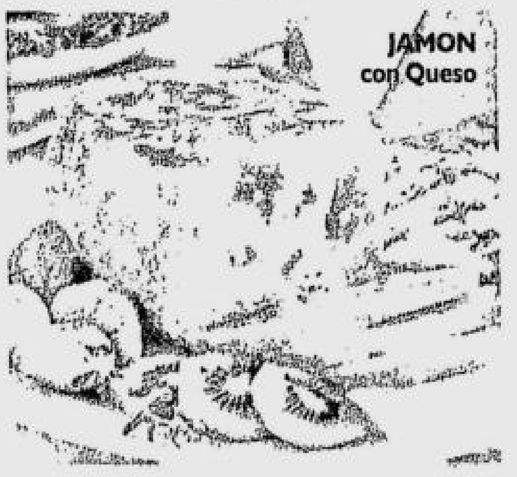
All the food should be washed down with a Pumpkin Smoothie. It's Thanksgiving, remember. (*Pumpkin flesh. Bananas. Orange juice. Ground cinnamon. Combine all ingredients in a blender/food processor and blend until smooth. Pour into a chilled glass and serve immediately.*)

Ham it up this Christmas

TODAY, EVERY FILIPINO FAMILY'S Christmas Noche Buena and New Year Media Noche do not seem complete without ham on the table.

How did this western delicacy become part of local culinary culture?

In her book, "Palayok," the late writer, author, and food guru Doreen Fernandez traced the history of ham in the Philippines to Spanish colonization.



JAMON con Queso

Food brought in by colonial masters was seen as "desirable, high class, elite."

Meals prepared for the midnight Noche Buena and Media Noche were usually Castilian, "since Christianity was brought in by colonization," Fernandez wrote. So the food often included *jamon en dulce*, a sugar-glazed ham; slices of Edam cheese called *queso de bola*, turkey *relleno*, galantine or *pavo embuchado*; walnuts and chestnuts, apples and grapes.

The most popular incarnation today of the *jamon en dulce* is probably Fiesta Ham, the sweet ham that is also convenient because it is ready-to-eat, thoroughly cured, and well cooked.

Ham has become so popular that other types have emerged.

The pear-shaped ham is carefully molded into a fancy pear shape and enhanced with an aromatic blend of sweet and salty flavors.

Jamon de Bola, another popular type is a sweet, smoked, lean meat ham with a round shape and usually glazed. Juicy and slightly sweet, the Noche Buena Brick Ham is an attractive addition to any holiday table setting.

The Chinese influence has resulted in the emergence of another favorite, the Chinese Ham, a unique fusion of sweet, salty, and spicy oriental flavors. The ham brings out a Chinese twist to any holiday feast.

Those who are not so fond of pork can have Chicken Ham. Smoked and glazed with sugar, it is made from a plump whole chicken molded to keep its shape.

Jamon con Queso, a new innovation that is becoming popular, combines the goodness of ham and that of another popular Christmas treat: cheese. The whole ham is made of prime meat speckled with bits of cheese. The cheese also makes Jamon con Queso especially appealing to children.

These different hams are made available this Christmas by Purefoods-Hormel Company, makers of Purefoods Fiesta Ham, dubbed the "star of the Noche Buena season."

BRICK Ham

Dishing out a whole . . .

From page C1

Tamarind Sauce, Kare-kare, Guinataang Gulay and all her favorite desserts.

Café Juanita needs no introduction. After all, it is an institution. In an industry where many restaurants fold up as quickly as they open, this one is on its 17th year and counting!

That evening, wandering around, I got a glimpse of Kainan au Gusto, an artsy *carinderia* right beside Café Juanita.

The day after, I dropped by Kainan au Gusto. Something excites me about discovering affordable places to eat.

Luckily, Dr. Boy Vasquez, owner of both Café Juanita and Kainan au Gusto, was free. We talked over good ol' Filipino and Chinese food and the whole story of this one-of-a-kind *carinderia* was revealed.

Kainan au Gusto used to be on the opposite side, fronting the gas station, and its customers were simple folk—tire boys, road repairmen, etc.

"What I wanted was to give my customers some dignity," he said. "I wanted to raise their standards. I wanted them to know what good food and ambiance are, to eat in comfort, because they owe it to themselves *na ang katawan nila ay i-upo naman nila sa masarap at maganda habang kumakain.*"

The menu prices at Kainan au Gusto remained the same but Dr. Vasquez changed the ambiance.

"*Pinaganda ko*," he said. "*Ayun! Nawala na silang lahat! Na*-intimidate *siguro dahil ang mga kasabay nila mga naka-kurbata na.* It's very frustrating!"

DR. BOY Vasquez

Though frustrated, Dr. Vasquez surely can't complain. Au Gusto, like Juanita, is a success story, though it has not achieved its purpose.

So blessed is Dr. Vasquez to have two culinary theaters to express himself. He considers Juanita a showcase for expressing himself as an artist. Au Gusto, on the other hand, is a showcase for memories of his boyhood home in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

"*Ang* food *ko, yung* natural *na* food *na may* style. *Hindi* fusion. *Ang kare-kare inikot-ikot ko ang* beans. *Di ko binago ang lasa, ini*-improve *ko ang* taste to my taste. The food I serve is the food I like to eat. *Kung ayaw ko kainin pero gusto pa rin ng tao,* I change it so I can eat it," he says of his style of cooking.

We all know that his Filipino food rocks but his new offerings of Chinese dim sum are explosive!

At the *carinderia*, you'll find delicious authentic *siomai*, beef wanton and *pancit*, which are among my favorites. *Mura na, masarap pa!*

So, what makes dining with the doctor so special?

Well, it is because he dishes out a whole experience. After each visit, you leave not just with a full stomach but a feeling of joy, wonder and, subconsciously, nationalistic pride.

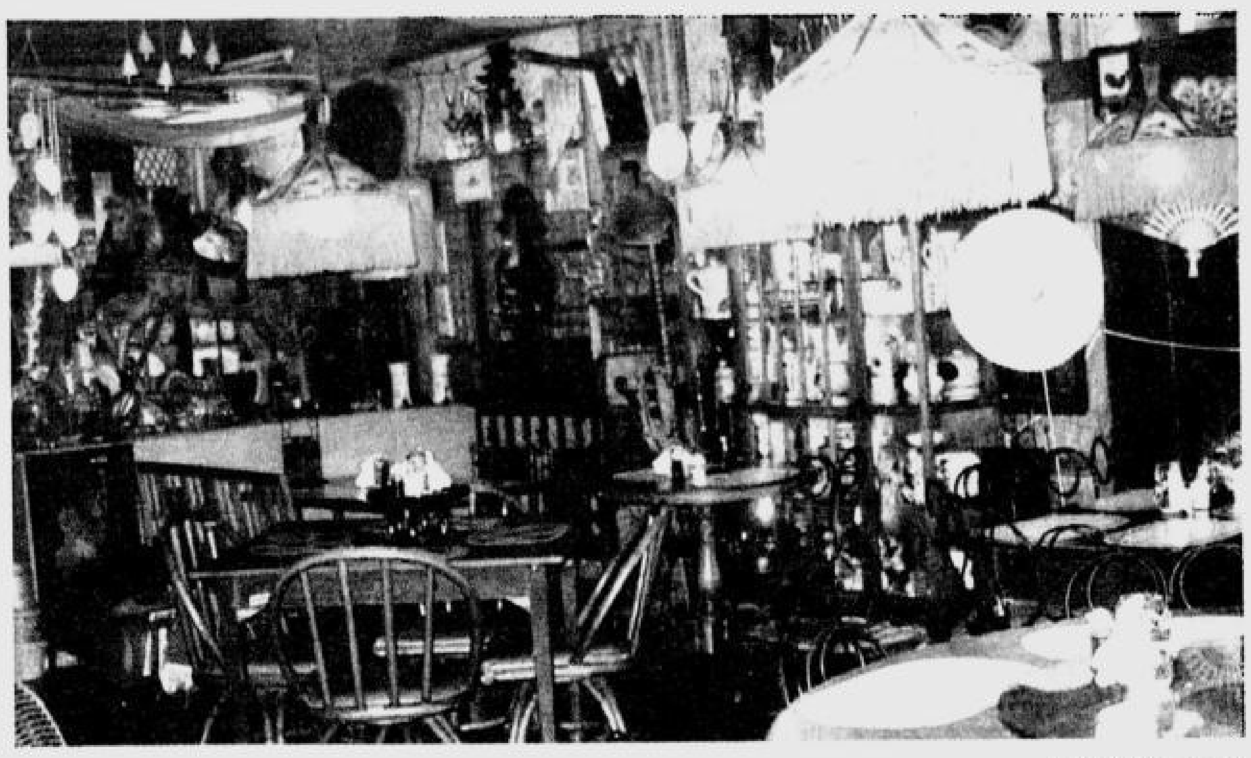
Is it the food? The Filipino folk songs playing incessantly on the background? The *objet d'art* that surround you? Or is it the knowledge that we somehow share in his dream and become witnesses to his passion for food, art, culture and his pride in being Filipino?

Truth be said, it is all of the above.

It's so good to know that there is a restaurateur who continues to believe that all Filipinos, without exception, deserve the best. One, who has gone out on a limb to preserve all that is innately, in Ms Marcos' famous words, "true, good and beautiful" in the Filipino!

Dr. Vasquez, *mabuhay po kayo*!

For reservations, food orders (did I tell you that the *carinderia* can be booked for *turo-turo*-style parties and theey charge only per order?), call 6320357 or 6337160. Café Juanita is on United Street corner West Capitol, Pasig.



BELIEVE it or not, this is a *carinderia*!

Ilokano Igado

When I was in the Philippines, I never learned how to cook *igado* the Ilokano way and never bothered to because someone cooked for me. Somehow, I regret it because I miss eating *igado* the way my grandma cooked it.

By the way she is from Paoay but they settled in Camiling, Tarlac. Can you please share with me how to cook *igado* the Ilokano way?

HISIE VELORIA,
WEST HILLS, CA 91304

From a GI in the Philippines, that's me, to a GI in the United States, that's you... here's your recipe from Rolly, my dad's driver, also a GI from La Union. Anyway, his *igado is naimas*! Enjoy!

Igado

¾ k *liempo*
2 pc *bato* (pig kidney)
2 pc *lapay*
½ k pork *isaw*
¼ k pork *atay*

Wash and slice pork pieces into thin strips of the same size, the thinner the better.

Combine all ingredients, except liver. Marinate for 1 hour in ¼ c *toyo*, 1 tsp pepper.

In a separate bowl, marinate liver in 2 tbsp vinegar for 30 minutes.

In a wok, heat ¼ c oil. Saute 1 c chopped onions and 2 tbsp garlic.

Add pork mixture except liver. Cook until it changes color.

Add 2 c water, bring to a boil then simmer.

If liquid dries out, keep adding 2 c of water, simmering over low heat until meat is tender.

Add liver and 2 pc *siling pangsigang*.

Season to taste with salt and pepper

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

Name it for a prize

NAME THE newest Nestlé Ice Cream frozen dessert and, if it is the wittiest, catchiest and most mouth-watering entry of all, you can win P100,000.

Nestlé Ice Cream is also giving away a family fun package consisting of three brand-new Nokia 3230 mobile phones and a Nintendo Wii to winner who can give this fruity frozen dessert a cool name.

How to join? Look for the "Give-Me-A-Name Frozen Dessert" label in Nestlé Ice Cream freezers at leading supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores and petrol stations nationwide and take home a 750-ml tub.

The new product comes in a combination of three fruit flavors—melon, watermelon and orange—in one tub.

You can also visit participating supermarkets where the newest Nestlé "Give-Me-A-Name" frozen treat is available for only P5 per scoop.

Send your suggested names via SMS by keying in <GIVEMEANAME> space<NESTLE >space<YOUR ENTRY>*sender's name*address*age to 2338 (for Globe subscribers only; P2.50 per text).

Example: GIVEMEANAME NESTLE FROZEN DESSERT *Angel Santos*123 Camia St., Makati City*25.

Or fill out coupons and drop the coupons at selected supermarkets.

Promo is until Dec. 31. Text Nestle to 2338 (Globe subscribers only) or call 8980061.

小淘氣
PROKIDS
BEDTIME
COLLECTION

COLLECT PROKIDS WRAPPERS TO GET ANY OR ALL OF THESE ITEMS FOR FREE!

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. Promo Period: August 15 to November 30, 2007
2. You can join by simply collecting wrappers with intact points of **Prokids Premium Baby Diapers *with Soft Cottony Magic Tape*.** Points per packaging are as follows:

Prokids Baby Diapers (with Soft Cottony Magic Tape)	Label Points
1 Mini Pack (S4, M4, L4, XL4)	1/4 point
1 Big Pack (NB24, S22, M20, L18, XL16)	1 point
1 Value Pack (NB48, S44, M40, L36, XL32)	2 points

3. You must collect the following points to get your desired premium item:

Bed Time Collection Items	Points Required
Baby Diaper Bag	20 points
Baby Comforter	18 points
Crib Organizer	16 points
Bolster and Pillow Case Set	12 points

- *Only entire wrappers with intact points of Prokids Premium Baby Diaper* ***with Soft Cottony Magic Tape*** *will be accepted.*
- *Entries containing cut-out points will NOT be honored.*
- *Entries containing soiled wrappers (wrappers contaminated with feces or mud, discolored or faded wrappers) and unused wrappers will NOT be honored.*

4. Submit the required **Prokids Premium Baby Diapers *with Soft Cottony Magic Tape*** wrappers together with the complete information written on a piece of paper: sender's name, complete address, baby's name and birthday, telephone and/or mobile phone numbers, signature of parent/guardian and the desired premium item. Please include landmarks for hard to find location.
5. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:

"Prokids Bed Time Collection"
JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc.
31st Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Or
"Prokids Bed Time Collection"
P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City

6. The chosen premium item/s will be delivered FREE of charge by **JRS Express** to the address submitted by the sender. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.
7. Entries thru mail must be received thirty (30) days after the promo period. Hand delivered entries must be received on or before November 30, 2007.
8. Premium items will be delivered sixty (60) days from end of promo period.
9. You may join as many times as you want.
10. Prizes are not convertible to cash.

Please visit www.jsunitrade.com for more information on Prokids baby diaper.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3668, series of 2007

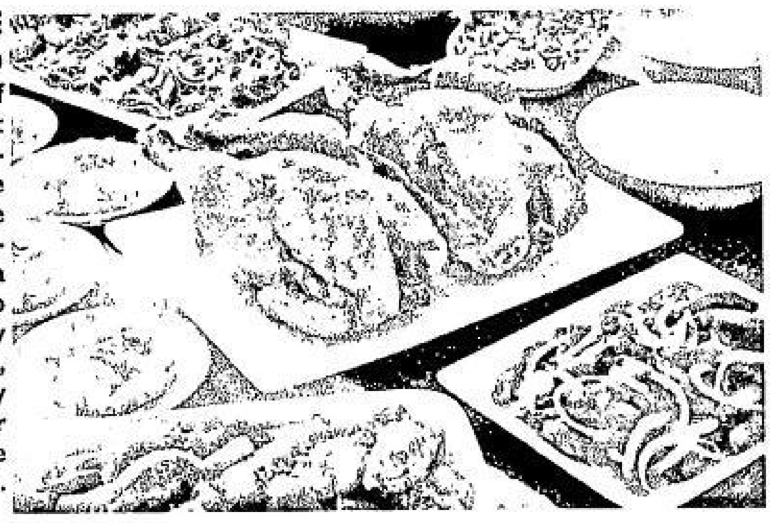
**Pro-comfort.
Pro-baby.**

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING
at
THE BLOCK
SM City North Edsa
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
Treat your loved ones at your favorite restaurants
GUMBO
Anything goes at Burgoo American Bar & Restaurant
SPECIAL BIBINGKA
Cafe Via Mare
Coffee Shop
HEALTHY SHABU-SHABU
Aristocrat
Kimono Ken 着物ケン 日本レストラン
Banana Leaf Asian Café
SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE
Cerealicious
November 22 is Thanksgiving Day

DINING OUT

Thanksgiving offerings

FOR HEARTY EATERS
The Blackbeard's Seafood Island, Seafood Grill and Barbecue House branch in Eastwood City is the best place to go for people with hearty appetites. You can try the Manila Bay Boodle Plate, one of the restaurant's nine Boodle Feast choices. It has squid balls, grilled *tilapia*, *lumpiang shanghai*, hickory pork belly, *sisig*,.deep-fried crab and *bagoong* rice arranged to depict the panoramic view of Manila Bay and its surrounding cities. Blackbeard's Seafood Island is in Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Call 9132694 or text 0917-8EWCITY.



PER TABLE FEAST PROMO
Customers availing of Max's Per Table set meals through the 7-9000 delivery service until Jan. 15 will receive a complimentary 1.5-liter Lipton Iced Tea and Max's Bakeshop Banana Loaf. Valid only for delivery purchase, and not valid with any other promos or discounts. Available only in Metro Manila.

THE BELLEVUE'S CAFÉ D'ASIE Thanksgiving Day celebration features Roasted Turkey with Cranberry Compote, Smoked Pork Loin with Cornichons, fresh Mainland Shrimps Creole and other Thanksgiving dishes. Call 7718181.

THE HERITAGE HOTEL MANILA'S Riviera Café celebrates Thanksgiving Day with dishes like Stuffed Roast Turkey with Cranberry Sauce, Honey Glazed Ham and Roast Rib-eye with Red Wine Sauce. Call 8548888.

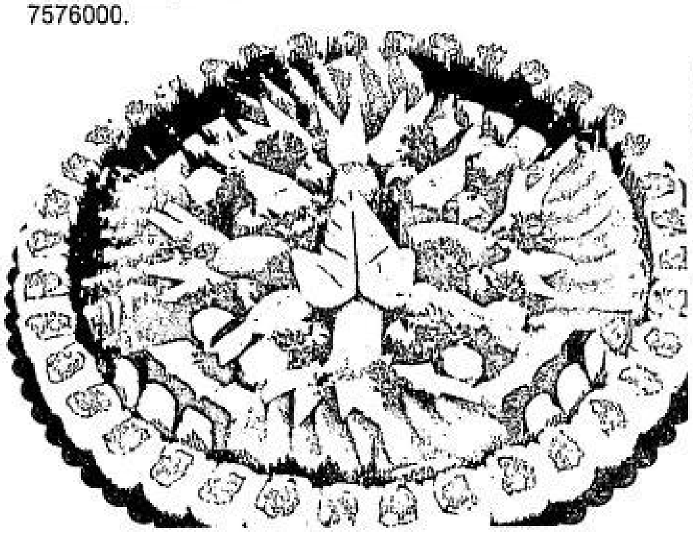
TAAL VISTA LODGE offers a lavish international buffet this November. Enjoy the weekend lunch buffet and a cultural show for P695+ per person. A group of five pays only for four while kids 12 years old and below get a free scoop of ice cream. The Barbecue Dinner buffet every Saturday, 6-10 p.m., is priced at P750+ per person. Call 046-4131000, 8864325 or 7513088 to 89.

THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL'S Emperor Court presents until Dec. 5 the "Art of Dim Sum" by master chef Chen Ling Xian of Guangzhou China Hotel. A selection of 30 dim-sum creations are offered in an all-you-can-feast promo at P800 net per person. Call 8116888 local 3338.

GUMBO opens another branch at Robinsons Place Manila. The restaurant is known for its Cajun and Creole dishes. Must-try are Cajun Fried Chicken, Baked Artichoke Formaggio, Bayou's Stuffed Crabs, Blakened Chicken, Mardi Gras Salad. House specialties are Gumbo and Jambalaya with choices of chicken or seafood. Call 5671820, 5560238 and 4420115.

THE MUSEUM CAFÉ offers "Bento M" meals from 12 noon-2:30 p.m. (lunch) and 6-10:30 p.m. (dinner). Dishes include Smoked Salmon Pasta and the Korean BBQ Wings. There's the Coconut Crusted Tofu with Enoki Mushrooms and Pumpkin Curry Risotto with Seared Scallops. Call 7573000 or 7576000.

COCORAMA offers Coco Bento Specials, Island Pasta, Omelets and French Toast Combo Plates, Groovy Waffles and Pancakes, Cocorama Steaks and Chops. Cocorama is at 6/F, The Ledge, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong. Call 9100401.



KITARO offers Party Trays and Starters with choices such as Shogun Feast party tray, all-maki, all-California maki, all-sashimi and combinations (shogun and samurai). The Party Starters, smaller versions of the popular party trays, are now available. Call 9111115.

COOKING CLASSES

On the spot grilling

CHEF REGGIE ASPIRAS IS CONDUCTING the following cooking classes:

Nov. 23—Straight off the Grill (all new): Steaks Cooked on the Spot (all new); One Table One Grill (perfect for hassle-free entertaining); Tenderloin and Rib-eye Slabs Grilled on the Spot; over 12 sauces and six side dishes, salad and dessert

Nov. 24—Holiday Appetizer Buffet (special class, great presentation, makes excellent Christmas gifts, all new): Chicken Pate, Liver Pate—Two of My Best Recipes with jams and condiments; Pimiento Spread, Yummy Tuna Spread, Smoked Tanguigue Spread, Delicious Herbed Hummus, Homemade Boursin (two kinds), Capsicum and Eggplant Spread, Smoked Salmon with Cucumber Confit, Sundried Tomato Spread, Blue Cheese Dip, Spinach Dip. Learn how to make toasts, point, bread sticks, fresh vegetable chips

Nov. 26—Panini: Set up an instant snack bar; Homemade Ciabatta, two kinds (Herbed and Plain) and Walnut Bread; over 12 panini combinations

Nov. 28—Lapu-lapu (all new): Live Steamed Three Ways: Cantonese-Style with Rice Wine Sauce, In Ginger Glaze with Sauteed Mushrooms and Orange Black-Bean Sauce; Pan-grilled Three Ways: with Miso Sauce, with Oriental Butter Cream Sauce and with Tomato Cream Sauce; Baked Two Ways: With Coconut Cream Sauce, In Salt Crust with Sauces; sides.

Holiday class schedules are out. Call 9289296 or 9273008.

Edible holiday gifts

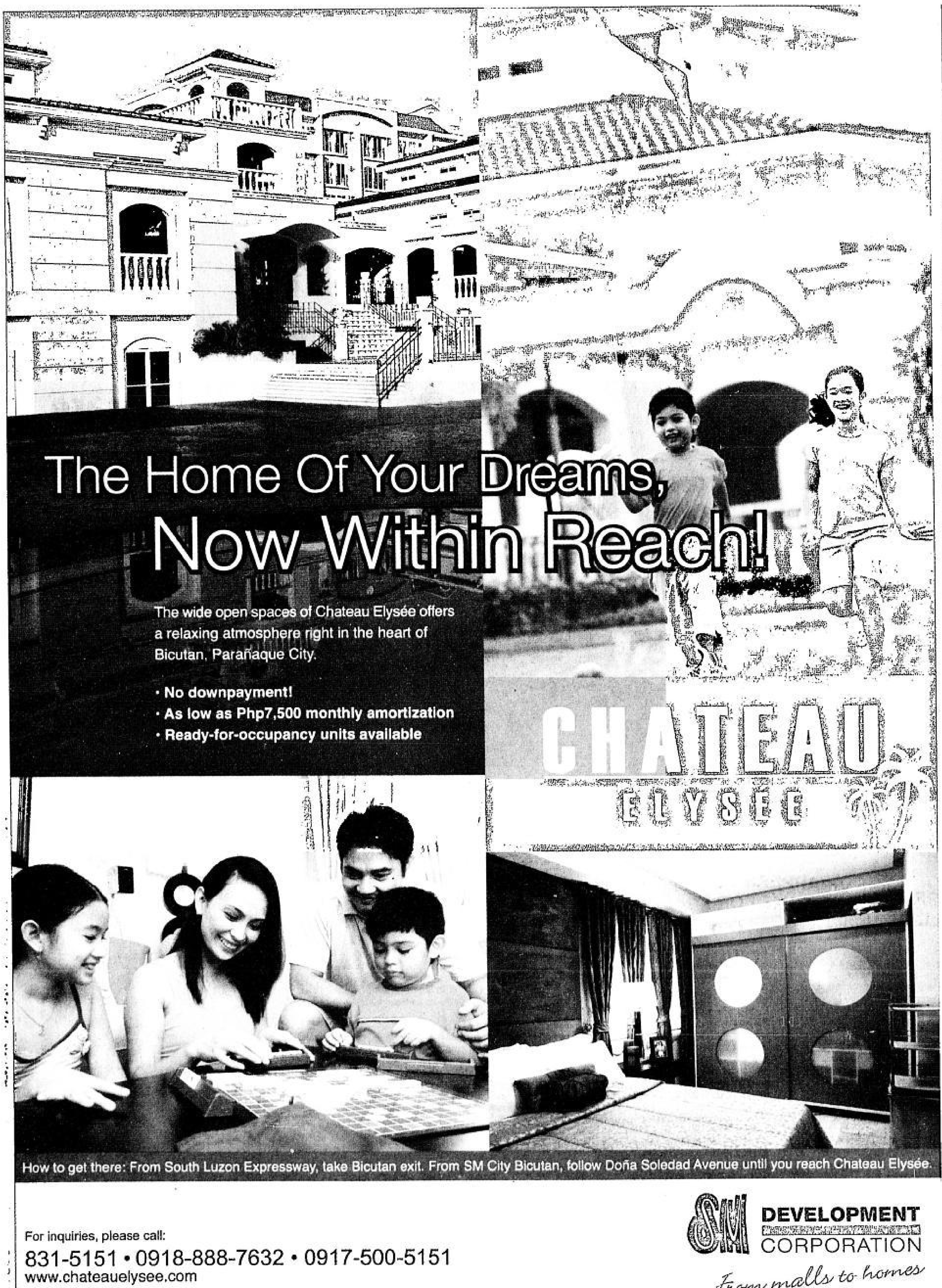
Maya Kitchen is conducting the class "Edible Food Gifts," Nov. 24, 2-6 p.m., for those who want to make their own gifts for Christmas.

The class will teach how to make such items as Food for the Gods, boat tarts, mini fruit cake with fondant icing, Cinnamon Bread, Stolen and Chutney Pate.

In "7-Days Curing Ham and Achara," Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Maya Kitchen will share well-tested recipes for Christmas food items like Pork Ham, Chicken Ham, Chinese Pata Ham, assorted pickles and *atchara*.

Those opening a bakery may want to enroll in "Fundamentals of Bakery Production," Nov. 27-29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. They can learn standard baking techniques on the use of ready mixes, yeast, bread, quick breads, pies, cookies and cakes. Also covered is commercial scale production. Enrollees get free baking cookbook.

Maya Kitchen is at 8/F, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Rd.), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.



The Home Of Your Dreams, Now Within Reach!

The wide open spaces of Chateau Elysée offers a relaxing atmosphere right in the heart of Bicutan, Parañaque City.

- No downpayment!
- As low as Php7,500 monthly amortization
- Ready-for-occupancy units available

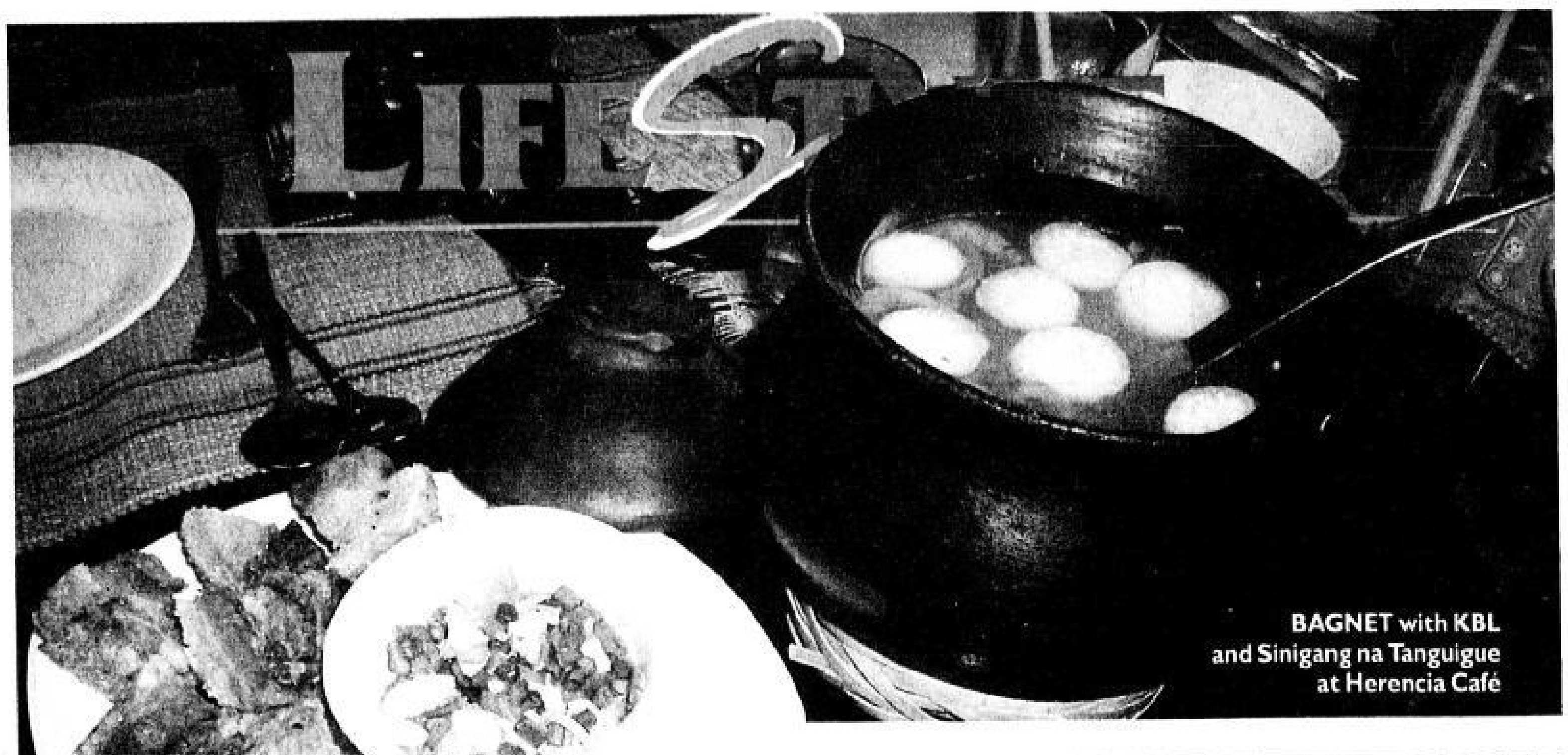
CHATEAU ELYSÉE

How to get there: From South Luzon Expressway, take Bicutan exit. From SM City Bicutan, follow Doña Soledad Avenue until you reach Chateau Elysée.

For inquiries, please call:
831-5151 • 0918-888-7632 • 0917-500-5151
www.chateauelysee.com

HLURB LTS No. 09132

SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
From malls to homes



BAGNET with KBL and Sinigang na Tanguigue at Herencia Café

Breakfasts in Ilocos

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

WE ALMOST MISSED OUR first meal of the day in Ilocos. The traffic was so heavy Thursday last week that it was just minutes before takeoff when we arrived at the airport for the flight to Laoag.

Thanks to some understanding Philippine Airlines supervisors, our group made it to our seats, still panting after running from car to security check to check-in counter to the ramp.

The first meal in Ilocos Norte was brunch at Paoay's Herencia Café with its view of the town's beautiful church. We were told it was the place to get *pinakbet* pizza but that wasn't as inviting as the prospect of having Ilocos *longganisa* or the *inabraw* (boiled vegetables).

Not that we have anything against food experiments (more on that in another column) but, for visiting foodies, it is traditional cooking that whets the appetite.

Thankfully, there was *tanguigue sinigang, igado* and *bagnet* with KBL or *kamatis, bagoong, lasuna* (tomato, fish paste, shallots).

Fisherman's prize

The *sinigang* broth reflected the freshness of the mackerel. I had the best part, the fish liver that, according to our guide Rene Guatlo, was almost always taken by the fisherman as his prize.

The *igado*, pork with liver, lungs, heart and kidney, had more sauce than we expected.

I smiled as the *bagnet* was brought in because I always look forward to it during visits to Ilocos. It still is the best version of *lechon kawali*.

At the market, they call it *chicharon* and can be bought by the kilo. Unlike tourists, Ilocanos use *bagnet* sparingly, treating it as something to add crunch and flavor to their *pakbet*, for instance.

We saw students snacking on *miki*, the noodle soup most associated with Ilocos. It made me glad that even with so many other choices (like junk food), they still stuck to their *miki*.

An electrical maintenance project in the town resulted in a brownout at breakfast the next day but food could still be cooked at the hotel. As the group did not want to miss brewed coffee, we taught the Casa Doña Emilia hotel staff the old way to do it—boil the coffee.

Shocking name

There was great garlicky *longganisa* taken with plain grilled eggplant. When the eggplant is mixed with eggs, the name of the dish always shocks non-Ilocanos—*puki-puki*.

Two breakfasts found us at Sitio Reme-

BREAKFASTS/ D3

VENTURE 7
Christmas Bazaar 2007
December 2, 2007 - Sunday
Grand Ballroom
Hotel Intercontinental Manila
9:00am - 7:00 pm
For inquiries, please call
843-9507; 810-3307;
815-0669 (Jenny); 09157885109
*Major credit cards will be accepted

The newest LANDMARK in GREENHILLS.
ACTUAL PHOTO
HOTEL FACILITIES
- ELAN CAFÉ
- GARDEN POOLSIDE GRILL
- FITNESS CENTER
- BILLIARD AND DART ROOM
- JACUZZI
- BUSINESS CENTER
- WELLNESS SPA
- MEN'S SALON
- COURIER SERVICE EXPRESS
- BANQUET/FUNCTION ROOMS
- EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM
ater debut weddings, birthdays and others. Price starts at P27,000
P1,240
/Person/Night on Twin Sharing w/ Free Buffet Breakfast
744-7979 to 82
www.greenhillselansuites.com
#49 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. (fronting Greenhills Shopping Center)

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
Delight in the performance of Starstruck 4's Ultimate Sweetheart.
JEWEL MISCHE
ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com

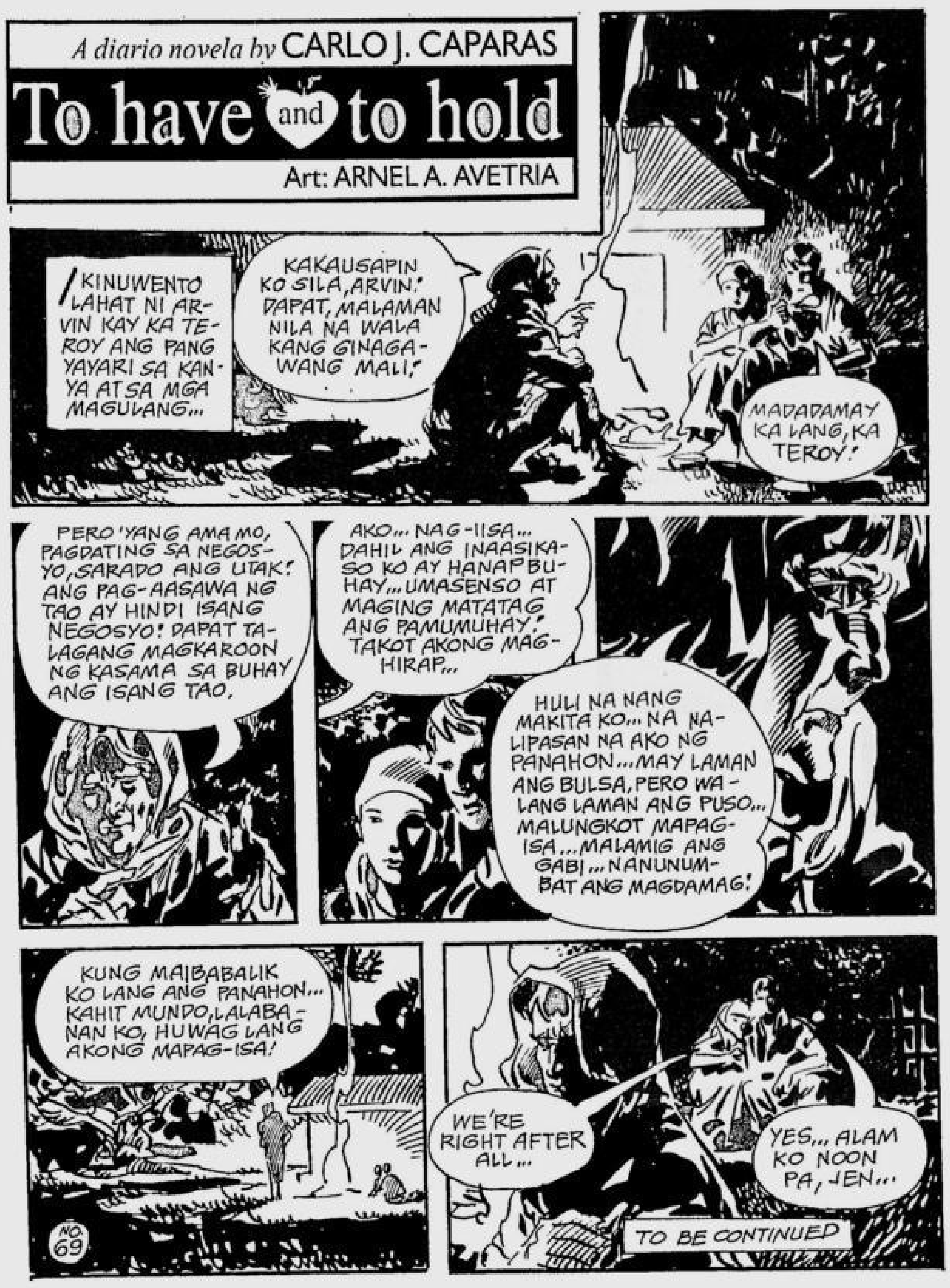
SLIMMERS WORLD
BIKINI BODIES 2007
2nd Runner-up Winner
JOLAIDA NICCOLAI PENA
Lost 20 lbs.
UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION
BUY 1 MONTH, GET 1 MONTH FREE!
NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
PLUS! PERSONAL TRAINING & ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS.
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!
ADVANCED LASER TREATMENT
Best Price in the Philippines.
Wart Removal
Skin Whitening
Facial
Diamond Ultrapeel
Meso White
Meso Rejuvenation
Mesotheraphy
Meso-lift
Nutracell face
Ultimate Body Whitening
Sclerotheraphy
Laser Acne Treatment
Acne Surgery
INTRODUCING...
Ultralift
LOOK 5 YEARS YOUNGER IN JUST 30 MINUTES.
SMOOTH THOSE LUMPS & BUMPS WITH BIOMETRICS!!!
CALL OUR ONE-STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.
FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph
ADRIATICO-MALATE May 5360619/5259891 0921 4669423
ALABANG Gemma 8090395/7750587 0918 3912510
BINONDO Carol 2421312/2420728 0917 8224399
CALOOCAN Olive 3657653 0915 8804668
CEBU Juna 231 3254 0915 8797217
GREENHILLS Jane 7266505/7261526 0917 8261204
H.V.DELA COSTA Emily 8140138/8140151 0928 2107247
LEGASPI VILL. Lani 8938935 0928 9719938
MEGAMALL Ruby 6313869/6377543 0916 2479753
PASAY ROAD Muan 8871335/8873530 0915 6893088
PASIG Michelle 6815333/6473816 0928 4763108
SM NORTH Michelle 9295429/9264215 0905 2690717
SUBIC Beth 2526514 0928 6712299
Per DTI-NCR Permit #3986, Series of 2007

SONY
POWER UP!
with Stamina Plus Batteries
Text Raffle Promo!
Get a chance to WIN a 20" SONY BRAVIA and other exciting Sony prizes monthly!
like.no.other™
To register, text
SONYBATTERY REG<Name/Age/Gender/Address>and send to 2366
To enter your raffle entry code, text
SONYBATTERY<space><unique code>and send to 2366
Promo period Sept 15 to Dec 15, 2007. See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 3964 Series of 2007

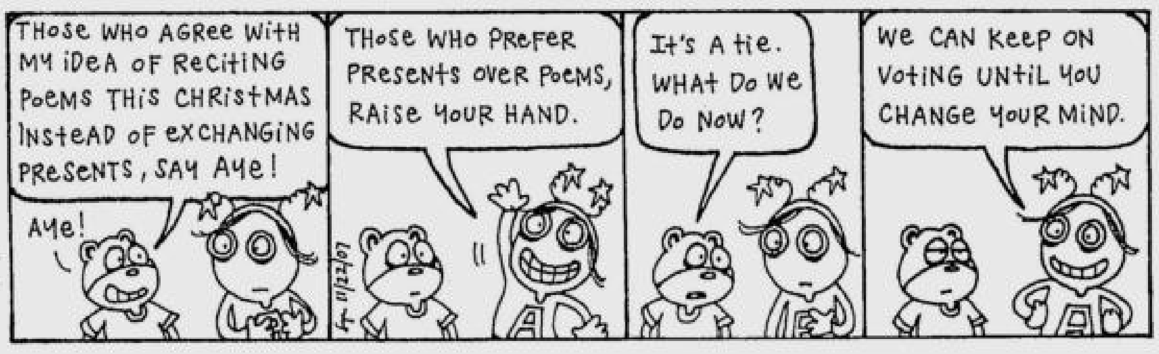
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

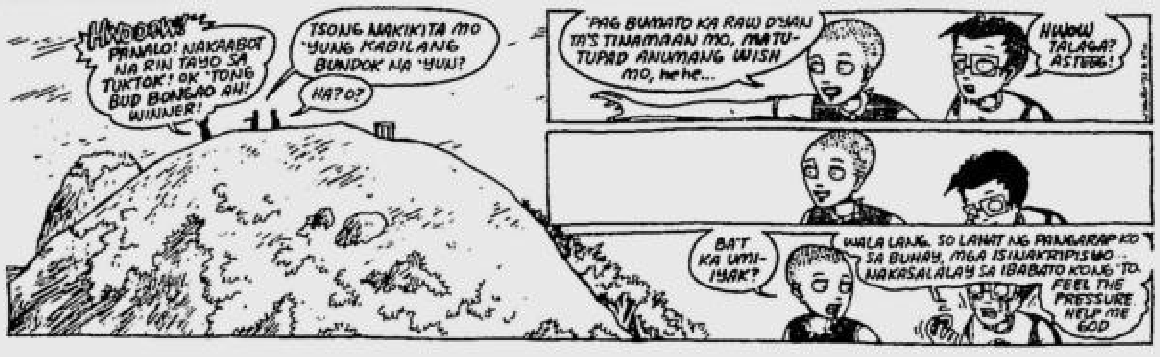
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


KINUWENTO LAHAT NI ARVIN KAY KATEROY ANG PANGYAYARI SA KANYA AT SA MGA MAGULANG...
KAKAUSAPIN KO SILA, ARVIN! DAPAT, MALAMAN NILA NA WALA KANG GINAGAWANG MALI!
MADADAMAY KA LANG, KATEROY!
PERO 'YANG AMA MO, PAGDATING SA NEGOSYO, SARADO ANG UTAK! ANG PAG-AASAWA NG TAO AY HINDI ISANG NEGOSYO! DAPAT TALAGANG MAGKAROON NG KASAMA SA BUHAY ANG ISANG TAO.
AKO... NAG-IISA... DAHIL ANG INAASIKASO KO AY HANAPBUHAY... UMASENSO AT MAGING MATATAG ANG PAMUMUHAY! TAKOT AKONG MAGHIRAP...
HULI NA NANG MAKITA KO... NA NALIPASAN NA AKO NG PANAHON... MAY LAMAN ANG BULSA, PERO WALANG LAMAN ANG PUSO... MALUNGKOT MAPAG-ISA... MALAMIG ANG GABI... NANUNUMBAT ANG MAGDAMAG!
KUNG MAIBABALIK KO LANG ANG PANAHON... KAHIT MUNDO, LALABANAN KO, HUWAG LANG AKONG MAPAG-ISA!
NO. 69
WE'RE RIGHT AFTER ALL...
YES... ALAM KO NOON PA, JEN...
TO BE CONTINUED

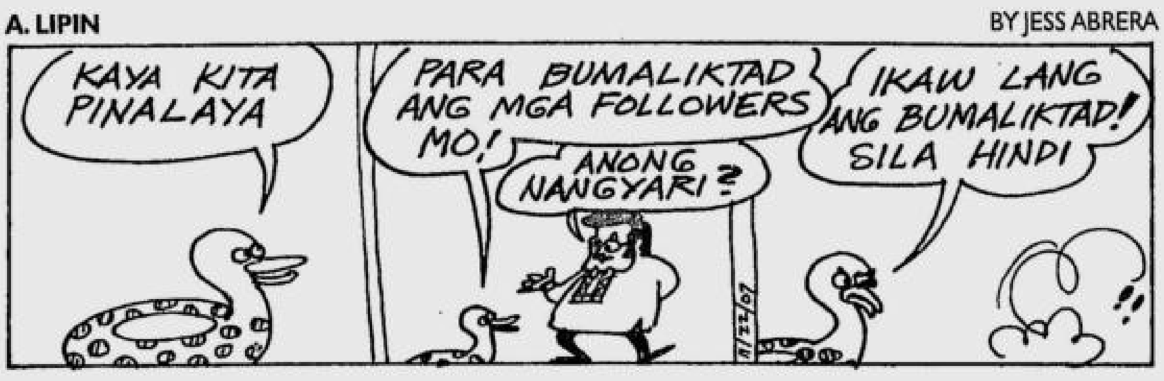
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THOSE WHO AGREE WITH MY IDEA OF RECITING POEMS THIS CHRISTMAS INSTEAD OF EXCHANGING PRESENTS, SAY AYE!
AYE!
THOSE WHO PREFER PRESENTS OVER POEMS, RAISE YOUR HAND.
IT'S A TIE. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE CAN KEEP ON VOTING UNTIL YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.

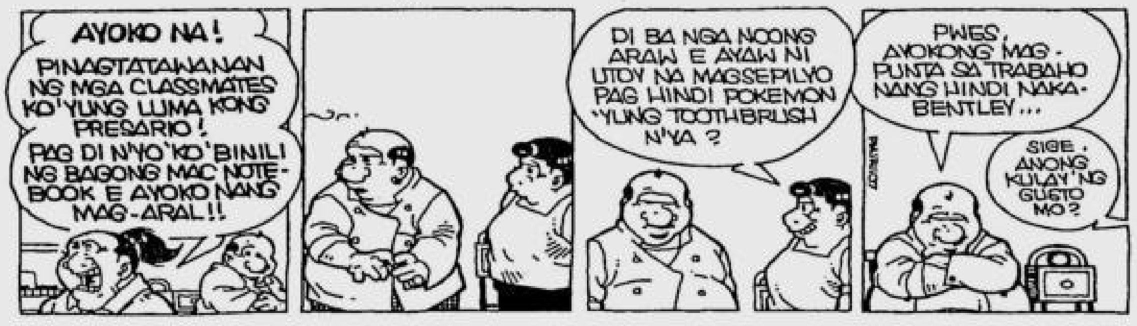
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOOW! PANALO! NAKAABOT NA RIN TAYO SA TUKTOK! OK 'TONG BUD BONGAO AH! WINNER!
TSONG NAKIKITA MO 'YUNG KABILANG BUNDOK NA 'YUN?
HA? O?
'PAG BUMATO KA RAW D'YAN TA'S TINAMAAN MO, MATUTUPAD ANUMANG WISH MO, HEHE...
HWOW TALAGA? ASTEEG!
BAT KA UMIIYAK?
WALA LANG. SO LAHAT NG PANGARAP KO SA BUHAY, MGA ISINAKRIPISYO... NAKASALALAY SA IBABATO KONG 'TO. FEEL THE PRESSURE. HELP ME GOD

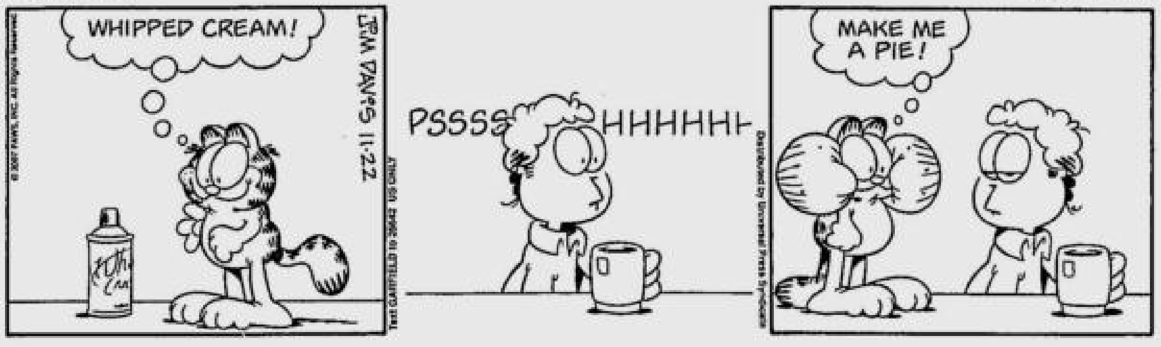
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KAYA KITA PINALAYA
PARA BUMALIKTAD ANG MGA FOLLOWERS MO!
ANONG NANGYARI?
IKAW LANG ANG BUMALIKTAD! SILA HINDI

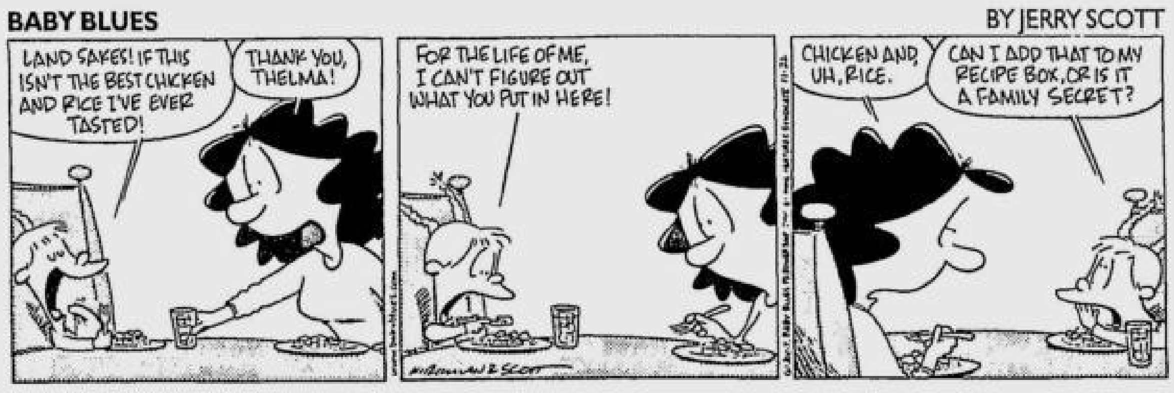
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AYOKO NA! PINAGTATAWANAN NG MGA CLASSMATES KO 'YUNG LUMA KONG PRESARIO! PAG DI N'YO 'KO BINILI NG BAGONG MAC NOTEBOOK E AYOKO NANG MAG-ARAL!!
DI BA NGA NOONG ARAW E AYAW NI UTOY NA MAGSEPILYO PAG HINDI POKEMON 'YUNG TOOTHBRUSH N'YA?
PWES, AYOKONG MAGPUNTA SA TRABAHO NANG HINDI NAKA-BENTLEY...
SIGE. ANONG KULAY 'NG GUSTO MO?

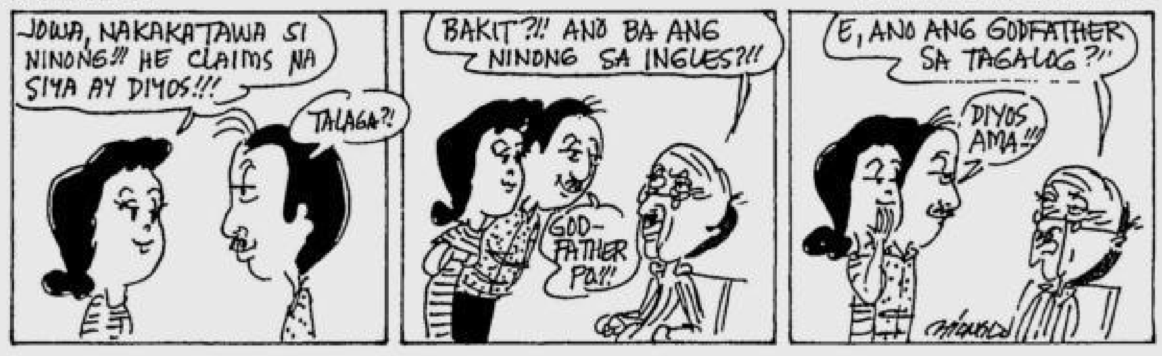
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


WHIPPED CREAM!
JIM DAVIS 11-22
PSSSSHHHHHH
MAKE ME A PIE!

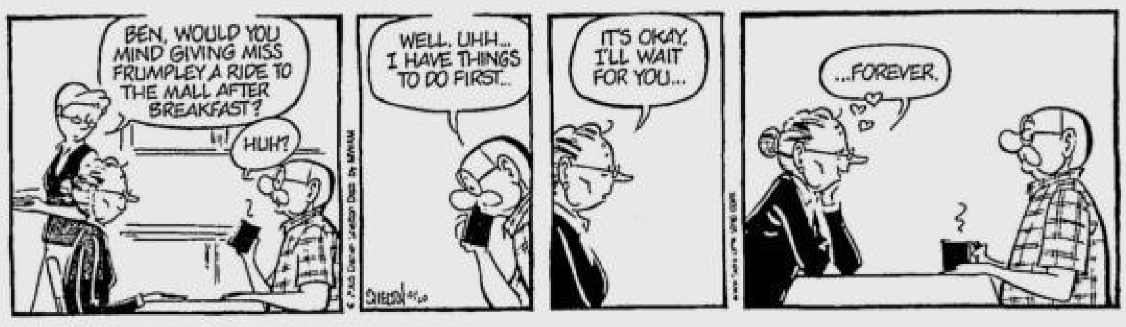
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


LAND SAKES! IF THIS ISN'T THE BEST CHICKEN AND RICE I'VE EVER TASTED!
THANK YOU, THELMA!
FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU PUT IN HERE!
CHICKEN AND, UH, RICE.
CAN I ADD THAT TO MY RECIPE BOX, OR IS IT A FAMILY SECRET?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, NAKAKATAWA SI NINONG!!! HE CLAIMS NA SIYA AY DIYOS!!!
TALAGA?!
BAKIT?!! ANO BA ANG NINONG SA INGLES?!!
GOD-FATHER PO!!
E, ANO ANG GODFATHER SA TAGALOG?!
DIYOS AMA!!!

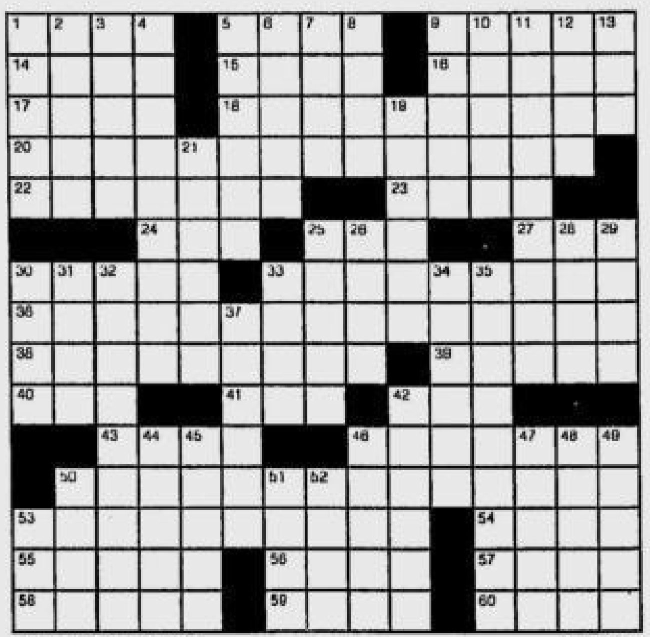
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, WOULD YOU MIND GIVING MISS FRUMPLEY A RIDE TO THE MALL AFTER BREAKFAST?
HUH?
WELL, UHH... I HAVE THINGS TO DO FIRST...
IT'S OKAY. I'LL WAIT FOR YOU...
...FOREVER.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Swedish auto
5 Spanish river
9 Overly saccharine
14 Potpourri
15 Bed frame segment
16 Different
17 Peruvian capital
18 So-so poker hand
20 Start of a quip
22 Carrot-top's characteristic
23 Poi ingredient
24 Legendary Giant slugger
25 100 square meters
27 Old cable letters
30 Verse accent
33 Please, please!
36 Part 2 of quip
38 Occurring every third year
39 Arranged fights
40 Stock-market abbr.
41 $ source
42 Letters on cameras
43 Water pitcher
46 Dices
50 End of quip
53 Hangs above
54 "The Lion King" lion
55 Vast expanse
56 End of all roads?
57 Transport-loss allowance
58 Daggers
59 Future plant
60 Mach toppers

DOWN
1 Kind of panel
2 Continuing to function
3 Directed
4 Lakeside building
5 __ de corps
6 Tony of Britain
7 Kind of coat or check
8 Spaniard's other
9 Bulgaria's capital
10 Essence of roses
11 Total physical appearance of an organism
12 Sties
13 Many mos.
19 Sandinista leader
21 Dines at home
25 Pres. James __ Garfield
26 Rod attachment
28 Famous Coward
29 Sisters
30 Enthralled with
31 Confirm formally: abbr.
32 Two times
33 Any part of JFK
34 Block of less than 100 shares
35 Two quarts
37 Protruding tree knots
42 Apportioned
44 Bring about
45 Merits
46 __ de menthe
47 Rides air currents
48 Not rented
49 H.S. junior's exams
50 Points of convergence
51 High crags
52 Bacchanalian cry
53 Trough for mortar



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
11/22/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	A	T	E	R		S	T	E	T		C	A	M	P
E	R	O	D	E		T	E	S	H		O	L	I	O
A	L	L	E	N		R	E	T	E		L	O	S	S
F	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	O	F	Y	O	U	T	H
			S	A	L	K		S	T	A	R			
L	D	S		L	E	E	S		S	H	A	R	P	E
A	U	T	O		R	O	M	P		O	N	A	I	R
P	E	R	P	E	T	U	A	L	M	O	T	I	O	N
S	T	E	E	L		T	R	E	E		S	L	U	E
E	S	P	R	I	T		T	A	S	S		S	S	S
			E	S	A	U		S	A	T	S			
B	E	T	T	E	R	M	O	U	S	E	T	R	A	P
A	L	O	T		T	B	A	R		L	O	O	F	A
D	A	D	A		E	R	S	E		L	O	M	A	N
E	N	D	S		R	A	T	S		A	P	A	R	T

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved. 11/22/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're highly independent. You march to your own drummer. You make your own rules about your address, your style and your life choices. You're quite unconcerned about what others think about you. You're interested in the education and care of children. You're outspoken about your causes. In the year ahead, you will learn something valuable.

Birthdate of: Scarlett Johansson, actress; Mark Ruffalo, actor; Jamie Lee Curtis, actress/author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You'll have a desire to do something different in the next six weeks. Go someplace you've never been to before. Sign up for a course. Learn something new.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your feelings about practically anything will be a bit more intense in the months ahead. Focus on issues about shared property, inheritances, insurance matters, taxes and debt.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today the Sun moves directly opposite your sign, pulling your attention to partnerships and close friendships during the next month. Observe your behavior. You can learn more about yourself!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You want to get better organized. Wonderful! Swing into action while this urge is with you. Buy shelving, file folders, cleaning equipment, paint or whatever you need to do a good job.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today the Sun moves into your fellow Fire sign. This means that the next four weeks will be very supportive and fun-loving for you. Romance shines!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your focus will now swing to home, family and real estate matters for the next few weeks. Set aside more time for family discussions and events.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Fasten your seat belt. The next six weeks are going to be busy! You've got people to see, things to do and places to go. Short trips and errands keep you running.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're very keen to work hard and earn money right now. Partly, this is because you have some major expenditures in mind. Keep at it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today the Sun moves into your sign giving you lots of energy and enthusiasm during the next four weeks. It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your birthday is approaching. Try to get some time by yourself to ponder what you want your new year to bring. How do you want it to be different from last year?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your popularity is rising. Accept all invitations in the next few weeks. Enjoy time with groups, friends and organizations.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): The Sun is now at high noon in your chart, acting like a spotlight on you. That's why bosses, VIPs and parents notice you more than usual.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

9				5				1
			1		3			
		6				2		
	3		2		7		5	
	1						7	
	9		3		1		4	
		2				8		
			6		2			
4				1				5

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/22

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

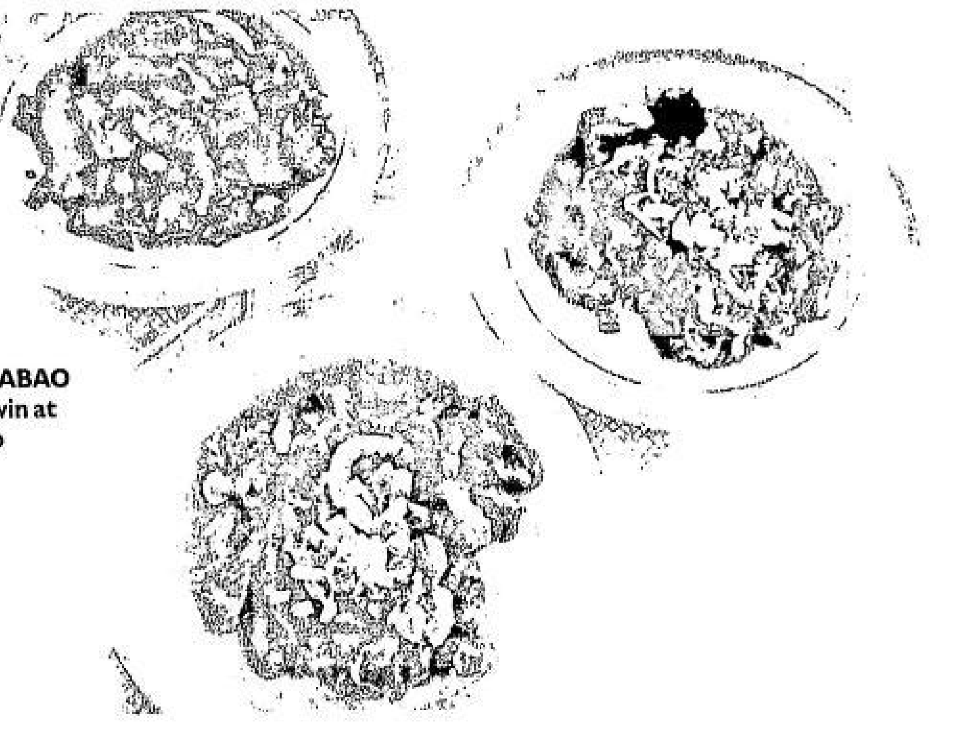
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

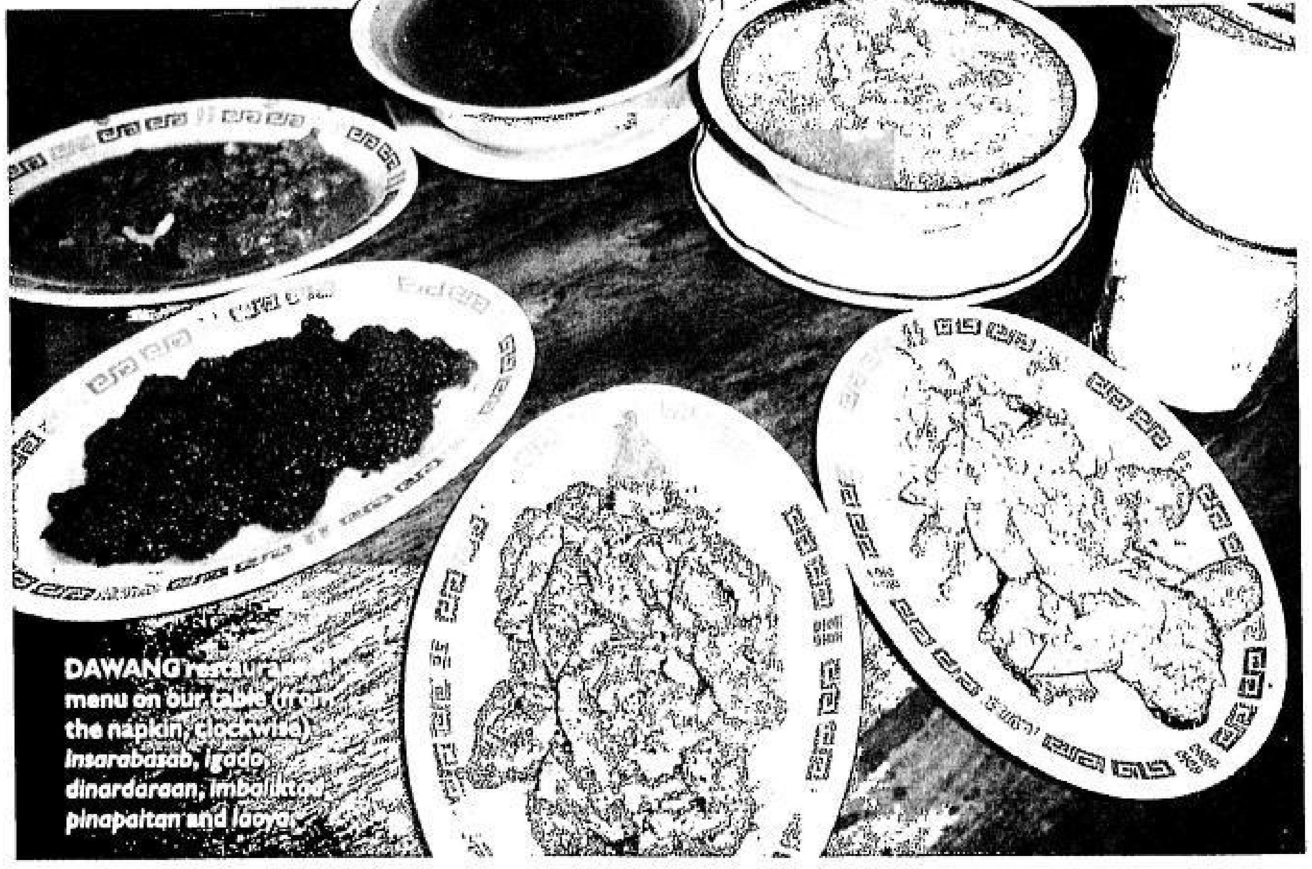
3	7	6	1	8	5	2	4	9
9	5	2	4	3	6	8	7	1
8	4	1	7	9	2	3	6	5
1	3	7	2	5	4	6	9	8
4	6	9	3	7	8	1	5	2
2	8	5	6	1	9	4	3	7
6	2	8	5	4	7	9	1	3
5	9	3	8	6	1	7	2	4
7	1	4	9	2	3	5	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/21



CARABAO Kilawin at Dayo

Breakfasts in Ilocos



DAWANG restaurant menu on our table (from the napkin, clockwise) insarabasab, igado, dinardaraan, imbaliktad, pinapaitan and laoya.

From page D1

dios in Currimao, the beautiful resort owned by Dr. Joven Cuanang who is from Batac. Nothing like having coffee or chocolate with a view of the beach. It reminded me of equally enchanting breakfasts by the water in many parts of the country.

We had the usual breakfast of *pan de sal* and butter. There was also leftover food—*biscocho* from Pasuquin, *empanada* from Batac and *tupig* or *suman malagkit* from Paoay.

The breakfasts were the light prelude to the heavier *segunda almuerza* (second breakfast) we had in two towns.

Dawang Restaurant was already busy with San Nicolas townsfolk who knew where to get a proper breakfast. The menu consists of Ilocano dishes you can also get for lunch and dinner.

The service people must now be used to people taking photos of the kitchen that they tell you to go ahead when you ask permission. One of them obviously had a well-developed sense of humor. She said, if we took a picture of the stove, we should also ask it to smile.

Best in the north

Cooking on the stove was *igado*. It later proved to be the best one we had in Ilocos Norte. It was drier but also had a bit of the oil released by cooking, a sign that it was done slowly and properly.

We had two kinds of soup—*pinapaitan*, which is beef innards with the bile, the bitter taste that Ilocanos loved to be poured in; and the pork ribs *laoya*, *sinigang* soured with tomatoes instead of tamarind.

The Dawang specialty *dinardaraan* or *dinuguan* was there. It is different because the pork innards, like that part of the intestine called *chicharon bulaklak*, are fried crisp before being included in the bloody stew.

There was *insarabasab* as well, pork loin or shoulder butt (*kasim*) marinated in *calamansi*, garlic and salt then grilled over an open fire.

As you can imagine, we had the whole menu including *imbaliktad*, beef with bile that got its name from the act of turning over the meat after one side had been boiled.

So we had our breakfasts at restaurants and by the beach. But the one that was full of local color was at the Dayo, the Sunday livestock market in Batac.

Breakfast was in a tent a few meters away from the main trading area. Nearby, pots were boiling, pans were stewing and several plates used by so many diners were being washed.

Papaitan was the favored dish, the smell of bile contributing to the earthy ambience. Again *dinardaraan* and *igado* were there.

I had my first taste of *kalabaw kilawin*, raw slices of carabao with garlic, onions and spring onions strewn on top. A bit of *sukang* Iloko was poured over it.

The Ilocos vinegar accompanied almost everything we ate. This dark product of sugarcane that is sometimes likened to balsamic (though I think it is even better than the Italian vinegar) is probably why Ilocano cooking is so exceptional.

It might be difficult to imagine that we would have lunch and dinner after all that. But we did, we did.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

TUPIG *or suman malagkit* by the sea

There's a lot
to be thankful for.
Remember
to celebrate.
This Thanksgiving, take the time to stop
and appreciate life's little blessings.
November 22 is Thanksgiving Day
SM
MALL OF ASIA
No Other Mall Comes Close
SM Mall of Asia J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City

THE CONSUMER

BIR clarification needed

By Linda B. Bolido

A READER IN MALABON City, who refers to himself as Mr. Cheated, has a question for the Bureau of Internal Revenue. He wants to know how food establishments should compute the service charge.

"From what I know, it should be based only on food and drinks," he wrote.

But his bill from a restaurant in Quezon City showed that the service charge was computed after the 12-percent value added tax (VAT) had been added to the cost of his food and drinks.

His order cost P116.07 and VAT amounted to P13.93.

Mr. Cheated expected that the 10-percent service charge would be based on the actual cost of the food he consumed, so it should only be P11.60.

Instead, because the total bill amounted to P130 with the addition of VAT, the 10-percent service charge was P13, a difference of almost P2.

Mr. Cheated said, "If the restaurant had been using this … service-charge computation for a long time, imagine how much money it had [collected]!"

Moreover, Mr. Cheated pointed out that the cash registry printout said "Temporary Receipt."

Will the BIR please respond to Mr. Cheated's question? And all you people out there, start looking at your receipts from food establishments and see if they follow the same practice.

Cautionary tale

One e-mail that I got recently from two or three people is about a commuter who literally got shortchanged.

I must caution readers that stories circulating by e-mail should be taken with a great dose of skepticism. In the past, we have received reports that looked authentic (even "written" on official stationery) but upon verification turned out to be hoaxes.

This story may turn out to be an urban legend but many commuters, I am sure, can relate to it. And it does offer some lessons that commuters would do well to keep in mind.

According to the supposed source of the story, he took an air-conditioned bus and paid the P10 fare with a P100 bill. The bus conductor told him to wait for his change after handing him his ticket.

A few blocks before his destination, he reminded the conductor about his change. He was told to wait some more as he was still some distance from where he was going.

The passenger moved closer to the door then reminded the conductor again about his change. This time he said he was ignored.

When he was close to his destination, he asked the conductor once more. The conductor asked to see his ticket. After looking at it, the conductor reportedly said, *"Eh wala naman akong sinulat sa likod ng ticket mo… tapos hihingi ka ng sukli! Tarantado ka pala eh…"*

The passenger responded in kind, telling the conductor he had asked for his change several times. Then another man butted in and told the passenger *"Pre, wala ka namang inaabot na 'san daang piso eh… tapos hihingi ka ng sukli!"*

The driver did not want to have anything to do with the passenger's complaint.

Sensing that further argument was futile, the passenger got off and decided to charge his P90 to experience.

He said he almost forgot about the unfortunate incident until the same thing happened to a woman fellow passenger. Again, a "helpful" kibitzer volunteered the information that he saw the transaction and the woman, who claimed to have handed P100 to the conductor, only gave P50.

The supposed source of the e-mail said another passenger told him later that he was lucky not to have come to the aid of the woman. The other man reportedly said that some two years ago, a man who argued with the gang was stabbed.

Apparently, there were not just three people working the scam. Other bus "passengers" were also involved.

The commuter's advice: Have the exact fare ready always.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

---

COOL when hot. Young people in the latest Nestea TV ad chill out with bottles of Nestea Ready-to-Drink Iced Tea.

Fun and cool beverage flavors

BEAT THE HEAT ANYWHERE YOU are with the Nestea Ready-to-Drink Iced Tea.

The fun and cool beverage offers invigorating refreshment and deliciously stimulating flavors, including the new Nestea Green Tea Apple and Nestea Calamansi drinks.

Like other Nestea Ready-to-Drink Iced Tea flavors, the new flavors are sure to help revitalize young people with active and stressful lifestyles.

For people who think iced tea is too sweet or who prefer drinks that are much less intense and goes down easy, there is the new Nestea Lemon Light. It provides a lighter iced tea taste and just the right sweetness, all without the sugar.

Indeed, there may not be anything as refreshing as Nestea Ready-to-Drink Iced Tea. So grab an ice-cold bottle of Nestea Green Tea Apple, Nestea Calamansi or Nestea Lemon Light in leading supermarkets, groceries and convenience stores today and enjoy a fun and invigorating drinking experience.

Feel totally refreshed inside and out because there's no cool like Nestea cool!

A bottle of Nestea Ready-to-Drink Iced Tea may be just the right refreshment when heat is unbearable.

LG Electronics

Get the big picture.
Again and again and again...

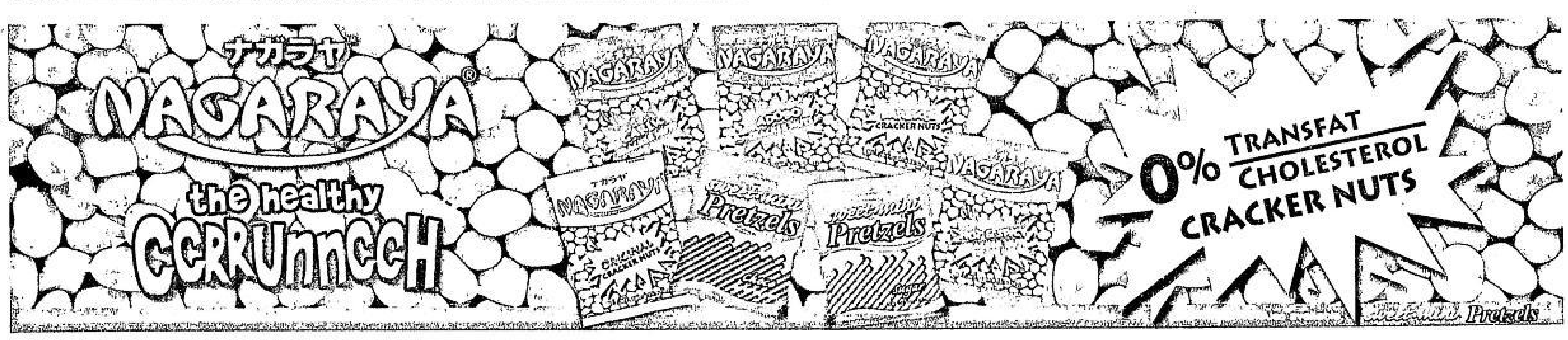
First TV with built-in Digital Video Recorder (DVR) so you can pause, rewind and play your favorite TV shows.

TIME SHIFT
Don't miss any scene. Automatically record the live TV programs you want.
MANUAL RECORDING
Record your favorite program daily and weekly with one simple setting.
ONE TOUCH RECORDING
Record TV programs easily and quickly with one click.

LG Time Machine TV
LIVE

LG
Life's Good

LG Electronics Philippines
15/F, Legazpi St., Maybunga Pasig City Tel: (64)-4181 to 85 Fax 640-0460; 641-2486 Toll Free No. 1-800-10-6402525 (Free provincial calls) CIC Hotline (02) 640-2525; 0917-8242525; 0920-9002525
www.lge.com



ENT TAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/ag 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

IN THIS ISSUE
▨ Solar teams up with ABC 5, RJTV /E4

Lorna's promise

By Marinel R. Cruz

LORNA TOLENTINO AND Rudy Fernandez will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary on June 1, 2008, and the couple is determined to mark the event with a trip to St. Peregrine chapel in San Juan Capistrano, California.

"When we visited the place last October, we made a promise to return on our 25th anniversary. We plan to keep that promise," Lorna told a group of movie writers during a press conference for Ascorbic Poten-Cee, a brand of health supplement that she endorses.

St. Peregrine is the patron saint of people like Rudy, who are afflicted with cancer.

Badminton, boxing

The actor suffers from ampullary cancer, which involves a small muscle at the point where the bile duct empties into the small intestine. It is a rare form of cancer, the doctors have told Lorna. Not even in the US has the illness been researched well enough, she said.

Rudy is currently undergoing radiation therapy at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital in Greenhills, San Juan. Lorna said that when her husband feels strong enough, he plays badminton with his close friends Jinggoy Estrada and Phillip Salvador, or boxing with his kids. "He also has lots of time to watch telenovelas now," Lorna said.

"Mostly, we run to God in moments like this," she added. "This is also a time to realize there are many things that should never be taken for granted, like one's health."

Sky, Home, have 3 new channels

THREE NEW CHANNELS—"VELvet," "Maxxx" and "Balls"—have been added to cable TV carriers Sky and Home, Creative Programs Inc. announced on Tuesday.

CPI officials said the launch of these channels had nothing to do with the termination of five others owned by Solar Entertainment—ETC, Jack TV, Solar Sports," Basketball Television, 2nd Avenue and Crime/Suspense—on Dec. 31.

Said Ronald Arguelles, CPI strategic programming head: "We're just providing content for Sky and Home cables." CPI is an ABS-CBN subsidiary. **(See Solar story on p. E4.)**

Velvet targets women, with current shows like "The View" (talk), "America's Next Top Model" (reality, a Solar show), and "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" (documentary).

Maxxx is dedicated to men, according to channel head Jojo N. Estacio. Now airing are "Bullrun" (car race), "American Inventors" (reality), and "International Fight League" (martial arts).

Balls carries the US NCAA Basketball and Football, ATP and WTA Tennis, Euro PGA and LPGA Golf, NFL, FIA European Drag Racing and KOTV Boxing. *Marinel R. Cruz*

CHEER FACTOR

H'wood hails Jap rockers

VOCALIST Koshin Inaba of the legendary Japanese hard rock band the B'z holds up his commemorative placard during the group's induction into Hollywood's RockWalk on Monday in Hollywood, California. The B'z—best-selling artists in Japanese history (75 million copies in Japan alone)—will release its 16th album next month. *AFP*

GOING BALD?
Don't wait another 15 minutes and another hair.

The rate of a man's hairloss can average about 35,000 hairs a year on a baldness-prone head. That means, when receding and thinning are at their peak, you're losing 1 hair approximately every 15 minutes!

As most men prior to hairloss have a total scalp cover of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a mere 4 disappearing every hour go unnoticed - until it's too late. It just takes 3-5 years to go bald - often faster.

But why do so many men let themselves go bald while there's still time to seek professional help?

It costs nothing to have a qualified trichologist analyze your hair and scalp. Learn the cause of your hairloss and what the right treatments can do. Discover how your hair and scalp can be optimized for maximum growth potential.

Call Svenson now for your free consultation.

Without treatment this man will likely be totally bald in just 2-3 years.

Svenson
CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 16/F GT Tower
TOMAS MORATO 3/F CKB Center
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Building
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Building
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre

LAST CALL!
European Designer Outlet
11.16.07 to 12.15.07
Shangri-La Mall Edsa
Indulgence Section
Unit 336
(3rd Floor across Figaro)
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0956, Series of 2007
Up to 80% Off!
ESCADA
homme & femme
ESCADA SPORT
ST. JOHN
Laurèl

up next at SM city taytay
Event Center

My Only Love
Nov. 23 Friday • 5pm
ALFRED VARGAS
MARK HERRAS
RHIAN RAMOS
BIANCA KING

JAYA
Nov. 24 Saturday • 5pm

CAMBIO
Nov. 30 Friday • 5pm

DINGDONG DANTES "SERGIO"
FANS' DAY
with
MARIAN RIVERA "MARIMAR"
Nov. 25 • Sunday • 5pm

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES
the City of Makati and the Manila Symphony Orchestra
CHICKEN FUN NUGGETS
FIDDLER on the ROOF
in cooperation with MAKE UP FOR EVER PROFESSIONAL
Directed by
Baby Barredo & Robbie Guevara
November 9 - December 16, 2007
Onstage, 2nd Flr., Greenbelt 1, Makati City
For inquiries call 8870710 / 8919999

GIFTS and HOUSEWARE SALE
LRI DESIGN PLAZA
LRI Building-Wide Sale • November 16-26, 2007 • Open 10am to 7pm Monday to Sunday
LRI Design Plaza 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (Reposo) Bel-Air II Makati City 895-1772 • 895-5470
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT No. A2-476 SERIES OF 2007
SALE
UP TO 50% OFF
ON SELECTED ITEMS

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME

VISIT WWW.SMCINEMA.COM
* Powered by WWW.YEHEY.COM

Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

Watch the epic battle of legendary heroes
like it has never been seen before
in the newest breakthrough in Philippine cinema

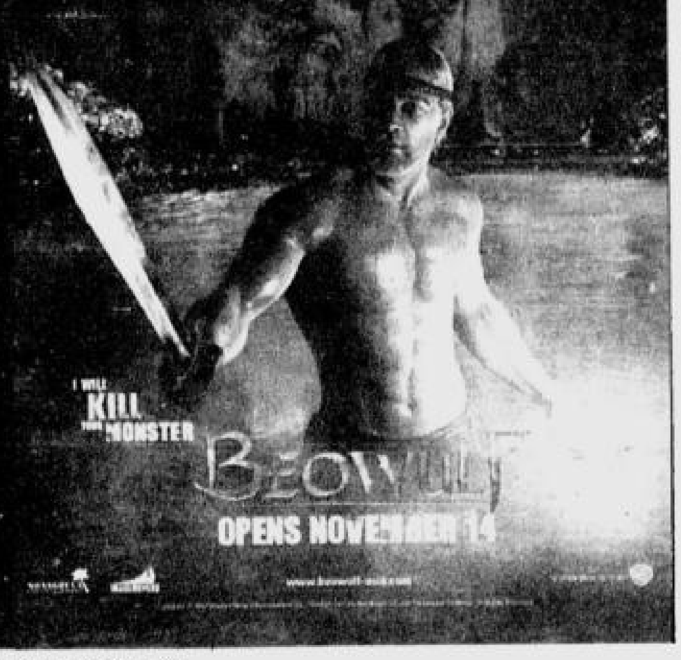
BEOWULF
IN DIGITAL 3D

Experience **CLARITY** in vision and sound
(with no scratches or ghosting)
Guaranteed **PERFECTION** in projection
(even after several runs)
Full **IMMERSE** action with polarized 3D glasses
(that you can bring home after the movie)

OPENS NOVEMBER 14 AT
THE BLOCK CINEMA 1, SM CITY NORTH EDSA
The one, only, and true digital cinema
in the country today

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
P 300 (Reserved Seats)
Screening Schedule:
12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.
Please call 929 5452 for inquiries.

In partnership with:
Array's Technology Inc.



METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
BEOWULF 3D Admission Price: P400
12:30 PM • 3:00 PM • 7:00 PM • 9:30 PM
DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
11:00 AM • 5:30 PM
1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
PREMIERE CINEMA
ONE MORE CHANCE
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BEOWULF
CINEMA 2
ENCHANTED
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 BEOWULF (DIGITAL 3D)
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 HITMAN
6 RESERVED
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 ENCHANTED
9 BOOGEYMAN 2
10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 BEOWULF

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BEOWULF
4 ENCHANTED
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS
6 HITMAN
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 ONE MORE CHANCE
11 THE GAME PLAN
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 LIONS FOR LAMBS
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 BEOWULF
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 HITMAN
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 THE GHOST SON
11 ENCHANTED
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 HITMAN
2 ENCHANTED
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED
5 ONE MORE CHANCE/ BOOGEYMAN 2
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HITMAN
4 ENCHANTED

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 HITMAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 ENCHANTED
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
6 THE NANNY DIARIES
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 HITMAN
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE GAME PLAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7 THE NANNY DIARIES
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 BOOGEYMAN 2
10 LIONS FOR LAMBS

NOW OPEN
SM SUPERCENTER MUNTINLUPA 862 5693
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
BEOWULF
HITMAN
WE OWN THE NIGHT
ONE MORE CHANCE
ENCHANTED
RESERVED
BOOGEYMAN 2
HIDE & SEEK
ONE MORE CHANCE
10 THE GAME PLAN
30 DAYS OF NIGHT
THE NANNY DIARIES

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

He's A Prince
With A Chip
On His Shoulder
Walt Disney
ENCHANTED
Distributed by Buena Vista International

Experience the enchantment of
Hong Kong Disneyland with

Walt Disney
ENCHANTED

Buy 2 tickets of the movie at any SM Cinema branch nationwide
for your chance to win a 4-day, 3-night stay at Hong Kong Disneyland
or be one of the 10 winners of any of these enchanting items:

Charm Bracelets
Photo Frames
Memo Pads

Shirts

Promo period is from November 21 to 27 (Metro Manila branches)
and November 23 to 29 (Provincial branches).
Photo may vary from actual prize. Please see banners and leaflets for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5804 Series of 2007

NOW SHOWING
SM CINEMA · THE PODIUM

Made Possible by: Hong Kong Disneyland · Cathay Pacific
Media Partners:

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HITMAN
4 THE GAME PLAN
5 BEOWULF
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 BOOGEYMAN 2

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

NOW OPEN
SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04
1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 EL CANTANTE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637081-86
1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 BEOWULF
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
5 THE GHOST SON
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BEOWULF
4 ENCHANTED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 UNREST
4 HITMAN
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 ENCHANTED
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 BEOWULF
2 THE NANNY DIARIES
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 UNREST
5 BALLS OF FURY
6 ENCHANTED

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ENCHANTED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 ATAUL FOR RENT
2 THE GHOST SON
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5 BEOWULF
6 EL CANTANTE
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 ENCHANTED
4 MR. WOODCOCK
5 THE GHOST SON
6 ATAUL FOR RENT
7 BALLS OF FURY
8 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 BEOWULF

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

[illegible]

The Ayala Malls Cinemas' **PRIVILEGE PASS**
The best gift for everyone this Yuletide season

Available at any Ayala Malls
Cinemas' ticketbooth.

The Ayala Malls Cinemas'
Privilege Card is honored at any
Ayala Malls Cinemas nationwide
(Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 3, Alabang Town Center,
Market! Market!, Ayala Center Cebu, TriNoma)

Ayala Malls Cinemas
PRIVILEGE PASS
ADMIT ONE
VALID FOR SINGLE USE ONLY

NOW SHOWING

BAWAL PUMASOK DITO

JIM LIBIRAN'S highly-acclaimed

TRIBU

OFFICIAL SELECTION, 2007 Pusan International Festival
OFFICIAL SELECTION, 58th Berlin Intl' Film Festival -
Forum on New Cinema
WINNER, Best Picture, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors, CINEMALAYA 2007
WINNER, Best Actors CINEMANILA 2007
WINNER, Best Sound, CINEMALAYA 2007

NOVEMBER 14 to 20

indieSine

DON'T MISS THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE!

ONLY AT INDIESINE, ROBINSONS ERMITA

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway Mall · Farmers Plaza
gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway Cineplex 10

LARGEST CURVED SCREEN 70 FT WIDE, 30 FT HIGH
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

HITMAN
[illegible]

ENCHANTED
[illegible] 40 / 3:50 / 5:00
[illegible] :30 / 9:40

BOOGEYMAN 2
4:30 / 9:30

GREEN PARADISE
2:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

BEOWULF
1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20

GAMEPLAN
12:20 / 5:00 / 9:40

ONE MORE CHANCE
12:40 / 1:15 / 3:25 / 4:00
6:10 / 6:45 / 9:00 / 9:30

NANNY DIARIES
2:00 / 7:00

SUPERBAD
2:40 / 7:20

HITMAN
1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

PBA GAMES
Nov. 23, Friday
4:50 pm AIR 21 vs TALK N TEXT 7:20 pm MAGNOLIA vs RED BULL

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov. 29, Thursday 8pm

TEN: PIOLO PASCUAL LIVE AT THE ARANETA
Nov. 30, Friday, 8pm

SKECHERS STREETDANCE BATTLE YEAR 3
Dec. 1, Saturday, 6 pm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

---

MTRCB Rating G | All Ages Admitted

THIS FAIRYTALE PRINCESS IS ABOUT TO MEET A REAL PRINCE CHARMING.

Walt Disney
ENCHANTED
EnchantedMovie.com

Now Showing

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Auditions for Sutasi talent search finalists tonight

LIVE AUDITIONS FOR FInalists of the Sutasi talent search for singers and bands will be held tonight, 7-10 p.m. at the Orosa Atrium of Robinsons Ermita. The competition seeks to find and develop the best Asian talents and provide the resources to market them on the global stage.

DID YOU KNOW...

Grand CD sale starts tomorrow

Thousands of CD, VCD and DVD titles are up for grabs in "CD Blow-Out," a grand audio-video sale at the 10th floor, Universal Building, 1487 Quezon Ave. Quezon City. The sale starts tomorrow and continues on Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 16, offering up to 90 percent discount on many items.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 ENCHANTED
MTRCB GP
1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

2 BEOWULF
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

3 ONE MORE CHANCE
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

4 ENCHANTED
MTRCB GP
12:30, 3:20, 6.10

PREMIERE THEATRE
HITMAN (R-13)
12 20, 2 45, 5 10, 7 35, 10 00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

Shang Cineplex E-see Club
Enjoy exciting privileges, rewards and discounts.
Apply at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters.
Log-on to www.shangcineplex.com
or call 633-4735 for details

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

ONE MORE CHANCE PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10	ENCHANTED G 12:00,2:20,4:40, 7:00,9:20	BEOWULF PG13 12:10,2:45,5:20, 7:55,10:30
HITMAN R13 1:30,3:45,6:00, 8:15,10:30	NANNY DIARIES G 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40	ENCHANTED G 1:00,3:20,5:40, 8:00,10:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 ENCHANTED
10:40, 1:25, 4:10
6:55, 9:40
GP

CINEMA 2 BEOWULF
11:40, 2:25, 5:10
7:55, 10:35
PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:30, 2:15, 5:00
7:45, 10:30
PG-13

CINEMA 4 HITMAN
10:30, 12:50, 3:10
5:30, 7:50, 10:10
PG-13

CINEMA 5 ENCHANTED
11:15, 2:05, 4:50
7:35, 10:20
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

November 22, 2007	Body Builders	6:00 PM
November 23 & 24, 2007	"Into the Woods" musical	8:00 PM
December 14, 2007	Mark Herras	8:00 PM
December 15, 2007	The Company	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Nov. 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

Eastwood City
proudly presents
The Members
Journey back in time as we take you on a musical ride, from the 60's all the way to the 80's
Watch 'The Members' pay tribute to these rock icons & more:
Jimi Hendrix Led Zeppelin The Cure The Doors
The Rolling Stones The Smiths The Shadows The Ventures
Every Thursday, 8:00 PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle
Eastwood City
687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCIT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 BEOWULF
3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05
PG-13

2 HITMAN
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
R-13

3 ENCHANTED
2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30
PG-13

4 ONE MORE CHANCE
3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10
PG-13

MMTA
METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Shang Cineplex
1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
PREMIERE
HITMAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 GREEN PARADISE
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

THEATRES
ONE MORE CHANCE
2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3
4

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 GAME PLAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 HITMAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 HITMAN
7 ENCHANTED
8 RESERVED
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 GREEN PARADISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HITMAN
2 GREEN PARADISE
3 ENCHANTED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 GHOST SON
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 GREEN PARADISE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 LUST CAUTION
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 UNREST
2 GREEN PARADISE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 UNREST
2 NAKAW NA SANDALI
3 KANGKONG
4 GREEN PARADISE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 TUKSO
3 ENCHANTED
4 GREEN PARADISE
5 ATAUL FOR RENT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ENCHANTED
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 GREEN PARADISE
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 GREEN PARADISE
2

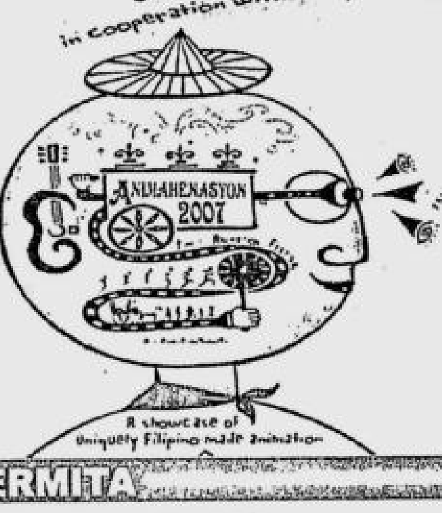
MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA Ticket Price THX: P160 190 Indie Sine: 130 632-9116
1 ENCHANTED • THX
2 ENCHANTED
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 BEOWULF
6 HITMAN
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 indieSine: ANIMAHENASYON ANIMATION FILMS
9 GAME PLAN
LIONS FOR LAMBS
10 GREEN PARADISE



ANIMATION COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES and the BOARD OF INVESTMENTS PHILIPPINES present
ANIMAHENASYON 2007
PINOY ANIMATION FESTIVAL
in cooperation with INDIE SINE, Robinsons Galleria & Hero TV
A showcase of Uniquely Filipino-made Animation
NOVEMBER 21 to 27, 2007
indieSine
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
ANIMATION COUNCIL of the PHILIPPINES, INC. (ACPI)
Tels: 4382983 to 85 loc. 150/151
www.animationcouncil.org
with the support of

ERMITA
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 indieSine: TRIBU
3 ENCHANTED
4 GREEN PARADISE
5 GAME PLAN
6 30 DAYS of NIGHT
7 BOOGEYMAN 2

Midtown
1 BEOWULF
2 HITMAN
3 ENCHANTED

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199
1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 HITMAN
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
GAME PLAN
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 GREEN PARADISE
8 GAME PLAN

NOVALICHES Ticket Price P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30
1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF
5 GREEN PARADISE

PIONEER Ticket Price P100 / P116 687-6376
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 HITMAN

STA. ROSA Ticket Price P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 30 DAYS of NIGHT
5 GREEN PARADISE

LIPA Ticket Price P90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 GREEN PARADISE
3 GHOST SON / 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 ENCHANTED

DASMARIÑAS Ticket Price P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 BEOWULF
4 GREEN PARADISE
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS

IMUS Ticket Price P90 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188
1 ENCHANTED
2 HITMAN
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF
5 GREEN PARADISE
6 GAME PLAN

ANGELES Ticket Price P90 / P95 (045) 892-2346
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 BEOWULF
4 HITMAN

TARLAC
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN the NIGHT
3 LUST CAUTION

STARMILLS Ticket Price P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 GHOST SON
4 HITMAN
5 BEOWULF
6 GREEN PARADISE

BACOLOD Ticket Price P70 (034) 441-0459
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 GHOST SON
6 indieSine: PAIN THINGS

ILOILO Ticket Price P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 GHOST SON
5 LUST CAUTION
6 ATAUL FOR RENT

showing on
NOVEMBER 21 to 27
Robinsons Movieworld
BACOLOD
MTRCB Rating: R18

Christian Vazquez
Cha Ramos
Paolo Villaluna
Michael de Mesa
PAIN THINGS
May kulay ba ang panaginip mo?
FILIPINO PICTURES and PELIPULA
produced by BERNICE ILAGAN MANIE MAGBANUA JR. FRANCIS MAGALONA CAROL BUNUAN RED
written & directed by JON RED

Solar joins ABC 5, RJTV

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WITH THE IMPENDING TERMINATION OF its channels in cable companies Sky and Home, Solar has joined two more free TV channels, ABC 5 and RJ TV, on top of RPN 9.

The news will be announced at the Advertising Congress in Subic today, according to Solar head Wilson Tieng.

Perci Intalan, ABC head of Creative and Entertainment Production, yesterday told INQUIRER Entertainment that Solar had inked a block-time deal with the network.

Intalan said that Solar was now airing on ABC 5 NBA games and the weekly basketball special "House of Hoops," wrestling shows "WWE Smackdown" and "WWE Raw" and "World-Class Boxing." These shows used to be aired on several Solar cable channels.

Solar had originally planned to air "Ultimate Fighting Championship" (UFC) on ABC 5, but it was disapproved by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB). Marissa Laguardia, MTRCB head, clarified that UFC "was questioned, but eventually approved … if sanitized. It was too violent for the 9 p.m. time slot."

Intalan said that, instead of airing a sanitized version of UFC, Solar had replaced it with "WWE Raw."

Apart from sports shows, ABC 5 also airs the Taiwanese epic anthology "Judge Bao," top-billed by Cin Chao-Chun.

The network likewise has a new interactive game show, "Win Win Win," with alternating hosts Benjie Paras and K Brosas.

Intalan said its other game show, "Slingo," hosted by Joey de Leon, is currently "off-season," but that "we are in talks with Mojo ("Slingo" franchise holder) to renew it."

According to an insider, joining ABC 5 and RJ TV was the best strategic move for Solar, whose channels (Jack, Crime/Suspense, 2nd Avenue, ETC, Solar Sports, BTV) are about to end their run on Home and Sky, to be replaced by new SkyCable channels.

However, Tieng said, Solar's cable channels are still available to Destiny subscribers. Another source said RJTV would carry Solar shows erstwhile aired on ETC, mostly canned lifestyle programs from the US.

Streamlining

Yet another insider claimed that Solar's troubles with the cable companies were sparked by the transfer of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao from ABS-CBN to GMA 7. Sky and Home are sister companies of ABS-CBN. Solar holds the exclusive airing rights for Pacquiao's highly rated prize fights.

In an official statement, Juno Chuidian, Sky Cable vice president for Programming, explained, "The introduction of new channels is part of the company's thrust to streamline and strengthen its overall line-up."

With this move, said Chuidian, "Redundant programs have been reduced."

MONSTER RADIO RX 93.1 & WARNER BROS. PICTURES
INVITE YOU TO THE ADVANCE SCREENING OF

You're invited to a very unusual family reunion.
vince vaughn paul giamatti
SANTA'S BROTHER IS COMING TO TOWN.
FRED CLAUS
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A SILVER PICTURES PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH DAVID DOBKIN PICTURES AND JESSIE NELSON PRODUCTIONS
A FILM BY DAVID DOBKIN VINCE VAUGHN PAUL GIAMATTI "FRED CLAUS" MIRANDA RICHARDSON
JOHN MICHAEL HIGGINS ELIZABETH BANKS WITH RACHEL WEISZ WITH KATHY BATES
AND KEVIN SPACEY
www.fredclausmovie.co.uk

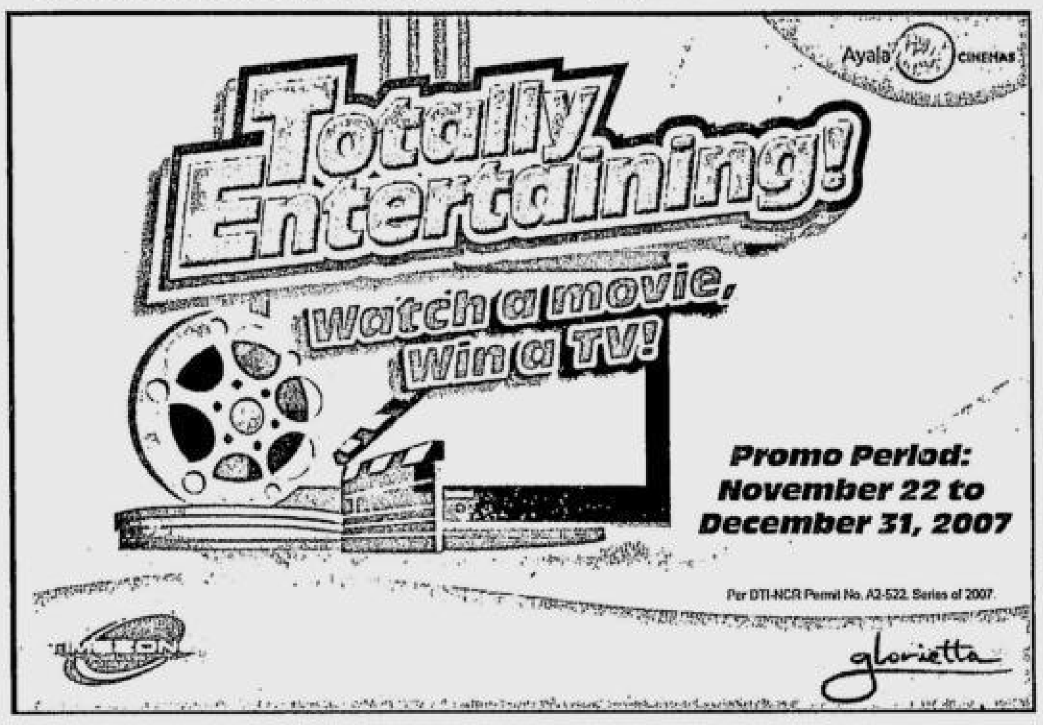
NOV. 24
SATURDAY
12:30PM

ROBINSON'S
GALLERIA
CINEMA 6

MTRCB RATING: G

IN THEATERS
NOVEMBER 28

TUNE IN TO RX 93.1 AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN FREE TICKETS!


Ayala Cinemas
Totally Entertaining!
Watch a movie, Win a TV!
glorietta

Promo Period: November 22 to December 31, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-522, Series of 2007

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

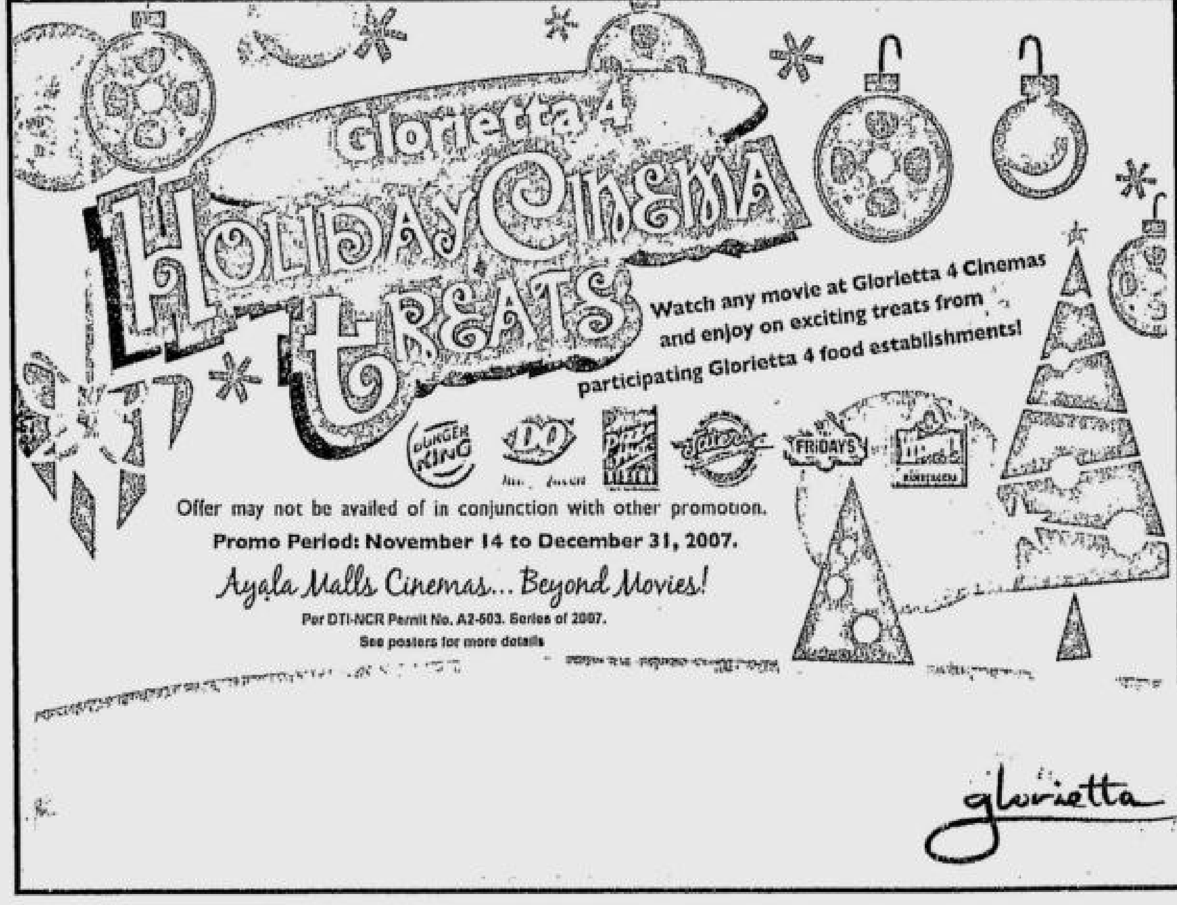
GLORIETTA 1	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 BEOWULF	4 ONE MORE CHANCE
GLORIETTA 4	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF	3 THX HITMAN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE NANNY DIARIES	5 ENCHANTED	6 ENCHANTED	7 THE GAMEPLAN
GREENBELT 1	1 HITMAN	2 ONE MORE CHANCE		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX HITMAN GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX ENCHANTED GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 ENCHANTED GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN		
	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 ENCHANTED	5 BEOWULF	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ENCHANTED	2 HITMAN	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BEOWULF
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF		
	3 THE NANNY DIARIES	4 HITMAN	5 ENCHANTED	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE GAMEPLAN	3 HITMAN GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 THE NANNY DIARIES	6 ENCHANTED	7 THX ENCHANTED GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale feat. Phil. Jesuit Community November 24; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT	Holiday Open Concert November 24 & Dec 2; 8pm; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Seussical The Musical November 23 to 25; 11am, 3pm & 6pm; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Metrobank Car Event November 24 to 25; Activity Center, Paseos and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Lifestyle and Vanity Outlet Sale November 19 to 23; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Cherubim and Seraphim December 16; 6pm; Activity Center



Watch any movie at Glorietta 4 Cinemas and enjoy on exciting treats from participating Glorietta 4 food establishments!

Offer may not be availed of in conjunction with other promotion.
Promo Period: November 14 to December 31, 2007.
Ayala Malls Cinemas… Beyond Movies!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-503. Series of 2007.
See posters for more details

Shop and celebrate the Yuletide Season at Market! Market! on November 23 - 25, 10am - 10pm.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-504, SERIES OF 2007

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Another LANDMARK Rises

By Joel V. Nigos

Classy, convenient, comprehensive and consumer friendly. These may very well describe the newest shopping sensation to rise at the newest commercial district situated north of the metropolis.

Alone for 19 years, The Landmark at Ayala Center, Makati, yet has survived the competition posed by new shopping malls and commercial centers, The Landmark's second branch, just like the pioneer store, will give customers what it has been known for almost two decades—good product mix, affordable prices, excellent customer service, plus a lot more.

Comprising four levels, the lower ground level houses the Supermart and the Food Center while upper floors comprise the department store.

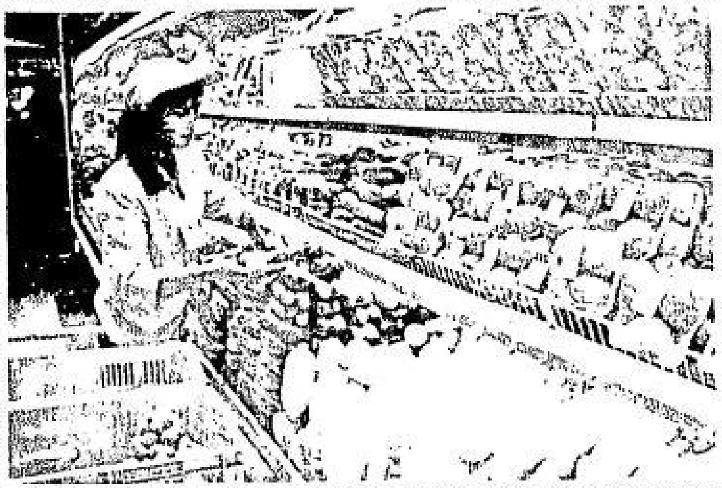
The new Landmark occupies an entire wing of Trinoma, the first Ayala mall development north of Metro Manila. Strategically located to cater to the needs of residents on that side of the metropolis, the latest shopping haven is very accessible via MRT and being in the middle of a major intersection, by all modes of public transportation.

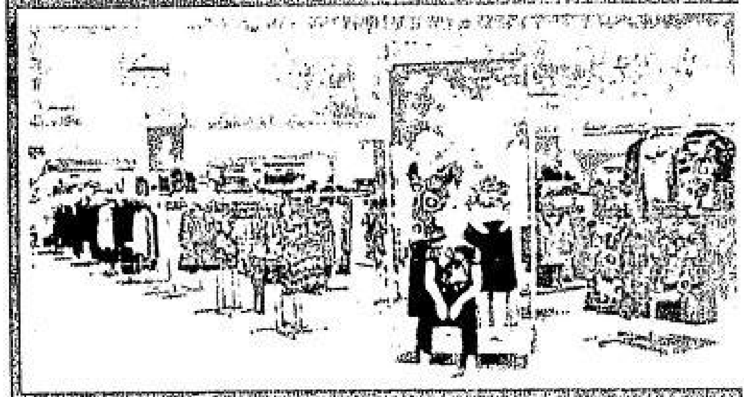
All you can buy

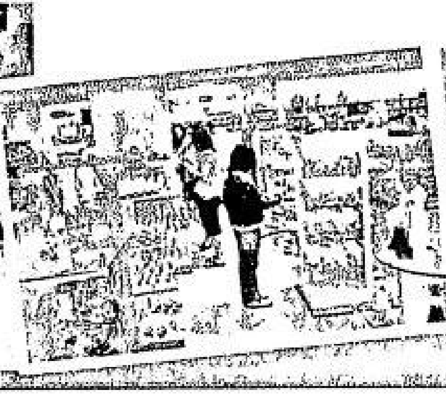
The Landmark Supermart has been known for providing a comprehensive array of merchandise. At Trinoma, the supermarket is divided into five major sections—dry goods, milk and dairy, seafood, toiletries, wines and spirits, plus a lot more.

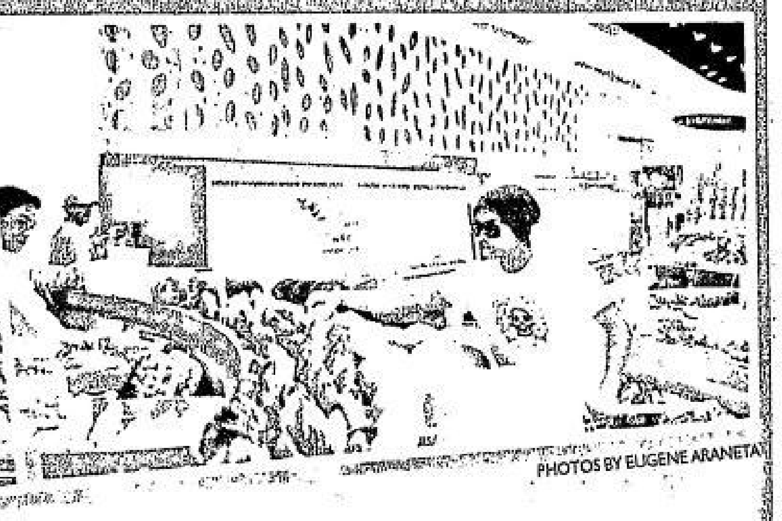
Its large floor area is able to offer a wider assortment of goods—from the locally manufactured to imported ones, as well as

LANDMARK/ F2

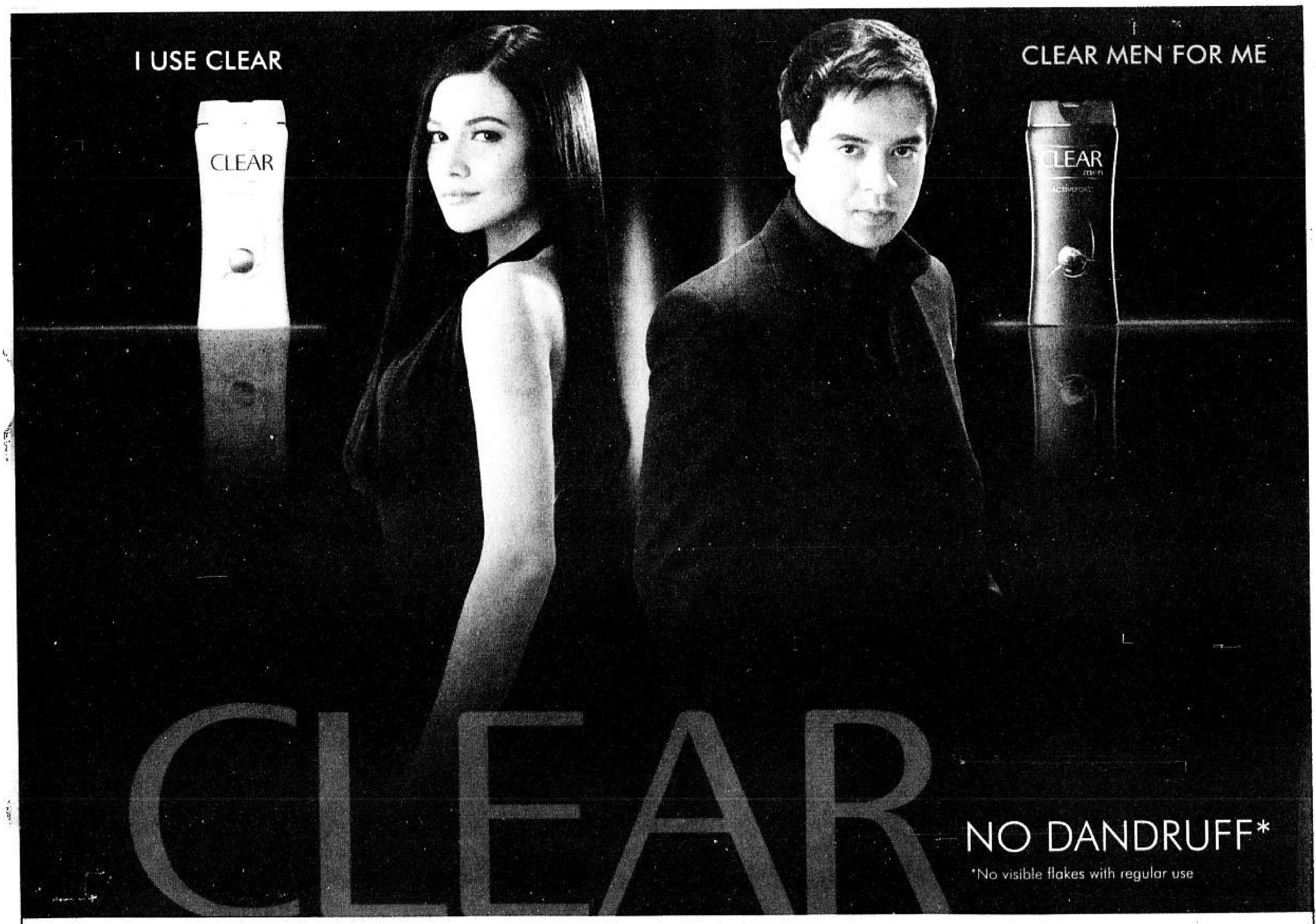








PHOTOS BY EUGENE ARANETA



Congratulates LANDMARK TRINOMA

Another Landmark Rises

From page F1

seasonal products and hard to find items. Indeed, an excellent product mix.

And with the generous space, shoppers can move around the supermarket with relative ease since the aisles are wide and free from any obstruction. The layout and design, the high pane glass which allows natural light to enter, the higher ceiling, and the interior lighting create an idea of abundant space which makes shopping even more convenient.

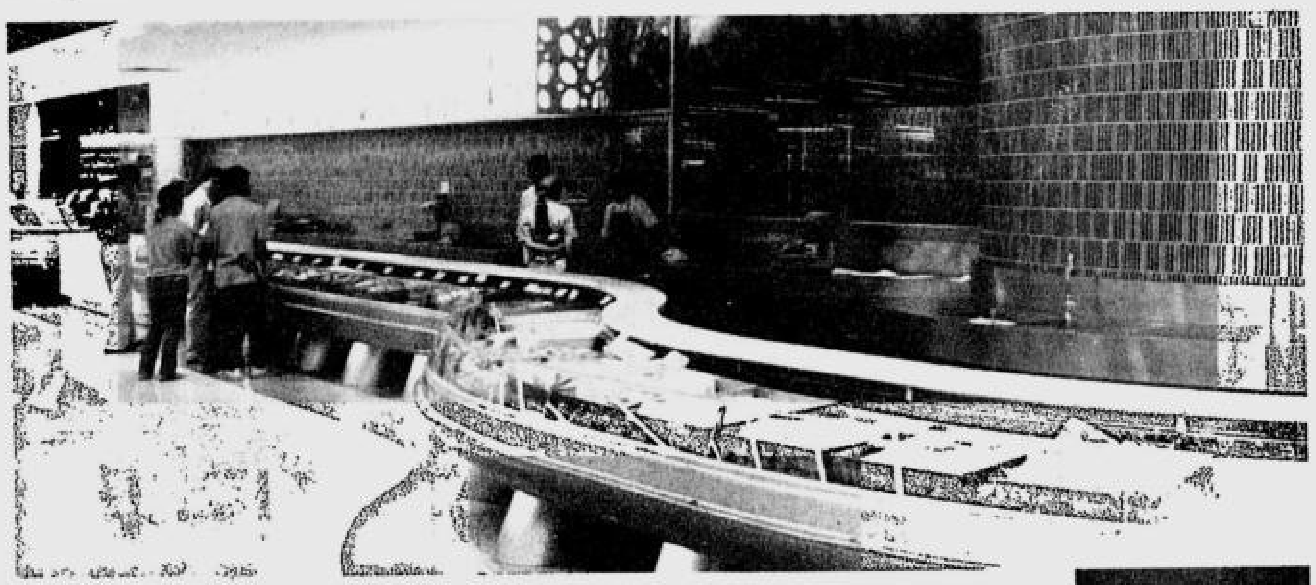
Done by an international designer, the whole space is sleek and classy. It's sure to invite all customers who are in the hunt for top-quality yet affordable goodies in which only Landmark can offer.

And if you think that the supermarket is through with you after you have made your all selections, placed them into your cart and settled your bill at the cashier, you're wrong!

Customer service is one of the hallmarks of Landmark and which it has been known for years. It always introduces new services and amenities just to make sure that everyone who shops

LANDMARK/ F4

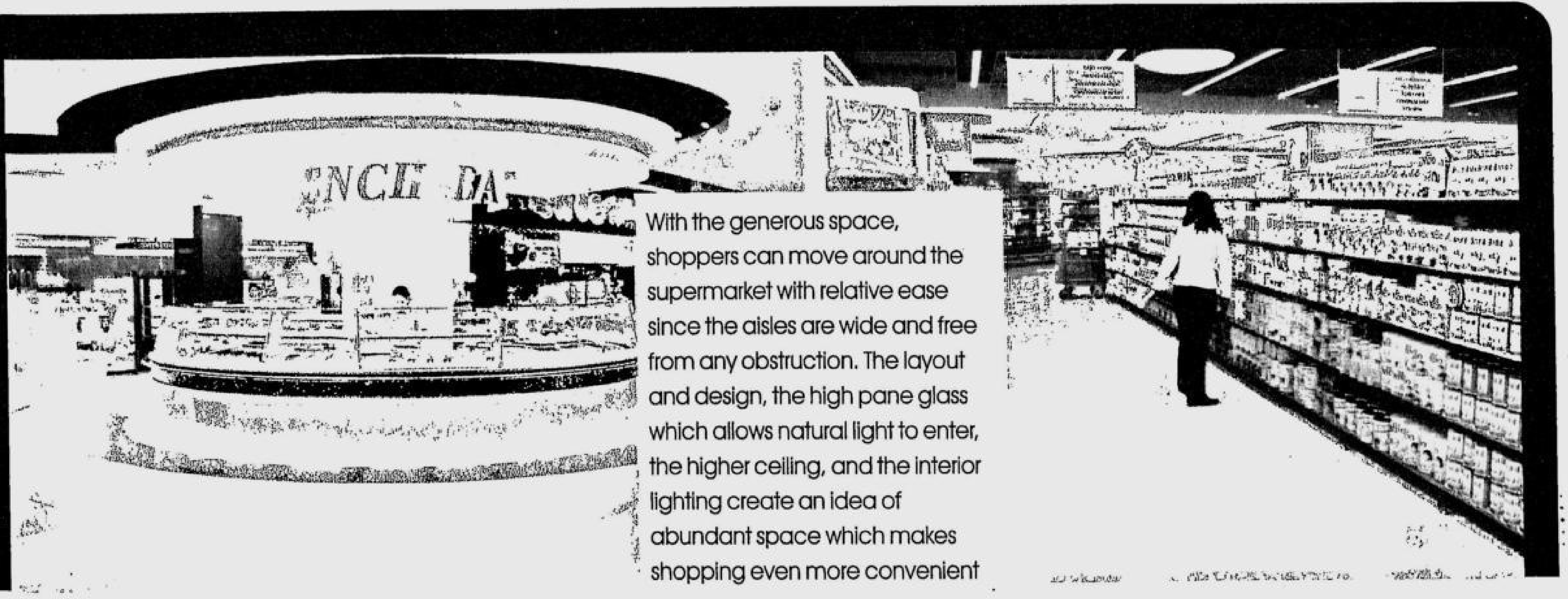
Bounty Fresh chicken
MEALS IN MINUTES
Quick Meal Right To Your Plate...
Congratulates
LANDMARK
TRINOMA



AROCHEM
INDUSTRIES CORP.
Lot 1A Blk. 6, Muralla Industrial Park Meycauayan Bulacan, Philippines
Contact Numbers: 299 60 22, 299 60 20, 364 26 56, 364 90 64
Congratulates LANDMARK
TRINOMA

Twins® Diapers heavenly dry
Heavenly Comfort for Baby
Mega-savings Ky Mommy
Sisters Silk Floss Sanitary Napkin
Quality na, Affordable pa!
Sisters Pantyliners
Congratulates
LANDMARK
TRINOMA

Done by an international designer, the whole space is sleek and classy. It's sure to invite all customers who are in the hunt for top quality yet affordable goodies in which only Landmark can offer



With the generous space, shoppers can move around the supermarket with relative ease since the aisles are wide and free from any obstruction. The layout and design, the high pane glass which allows natural light to enter, the higher ceiling, and the interior lighting create an idea of abundant space which makes shopping even more convenient

Colgate®

Palmolive®

Congratulates
LANDMARK
TRINOMA

Another Landmark Rises

From page F2

at the supermarket will have a pleasurable experience. Landmark has provided more counters so that lining up and paying for your groceries is easy. Upon your exit at the counters, Landmark's baggers are always ready to assist you with your goodies up to the parking area. There are also walkalators, an even more convenient way of transporting all you've bought, which are connected to the main Mindanao Avenue exit and parking.

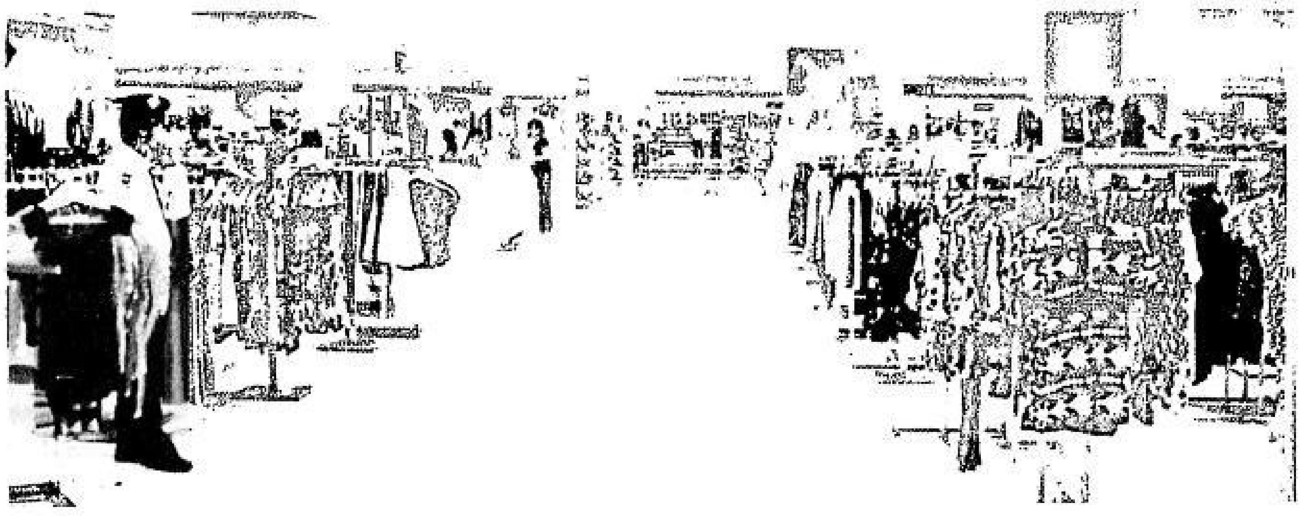
All you can eat

Located also at the lower ground level and right next to the Supermart is the Food Center which is equally elegant and spacious in keeping up with the supermarket.

Well-known fast-food chains and restaurants offering a wide variety of meals and snacks can be had at the center. New names in the food industry providing a broad array of delicious chow without doubt will also be enjoyed by customers. This wide-ranging selection is sure to delight everyone's discriminating palate.

The Food Center was conceptualized by an

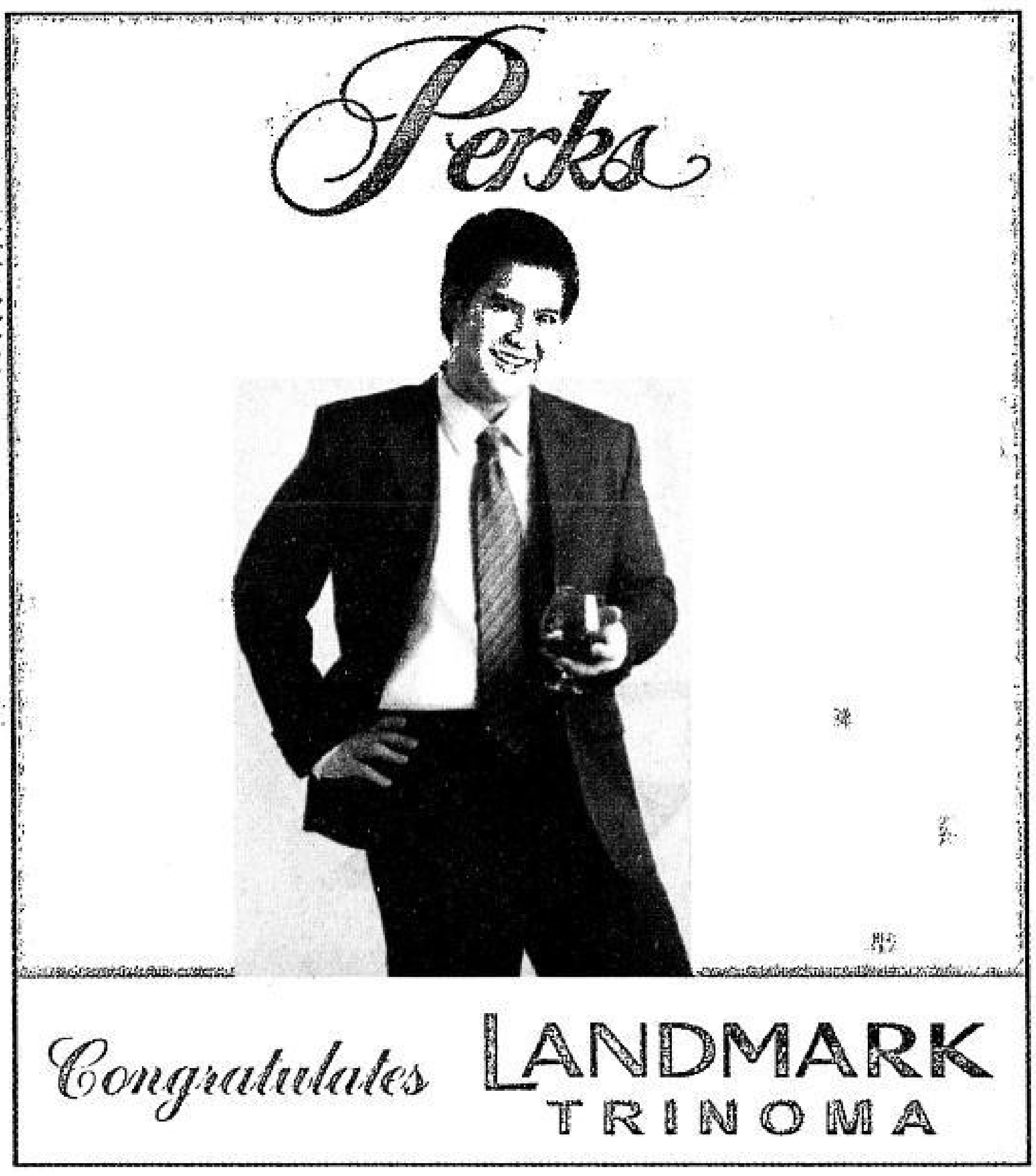
LANDMARK/ F5



Triumph International
Philippines congratulates
Landmark Trinoma
on its opening.
We wish you
continued success!

Triumph

Congratulates LANDMARK TRINOMA



Perks

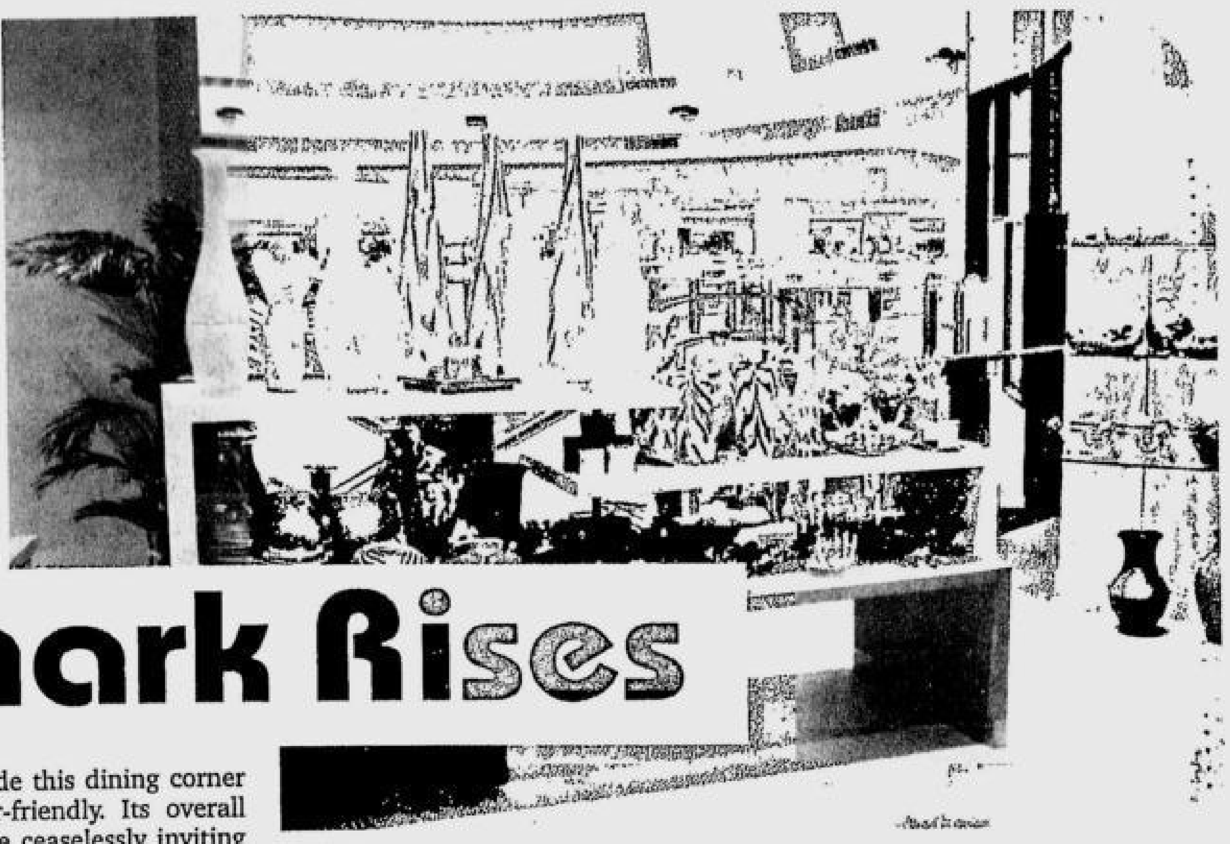
Congratulates LANDMARK TRINOMA

FRATELLO
CHEQ KAKU ITALY

Congratulates LANDMARK TRINOMA

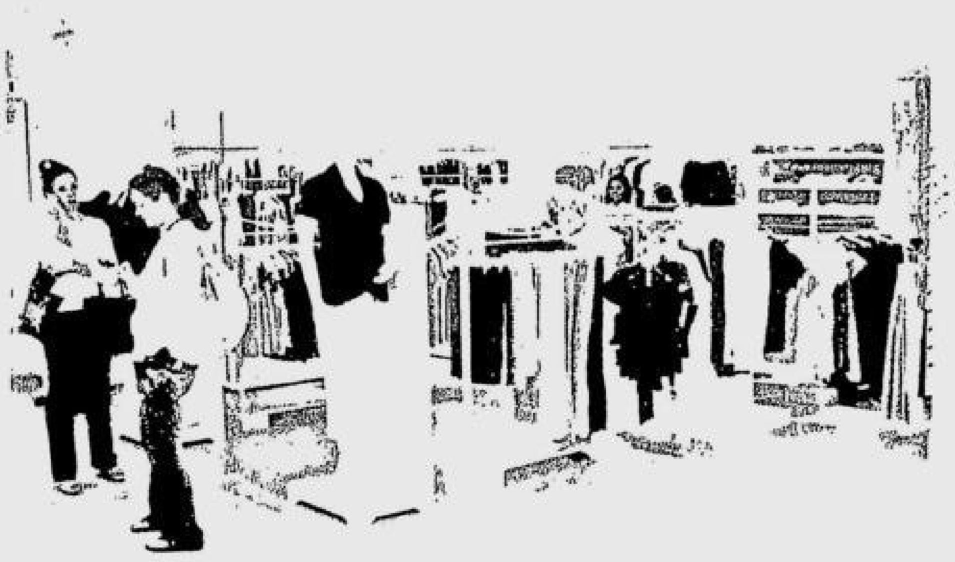
Well-known fast-food chains and restaurants offering a wide variety of meals and snacks can be had at the center. New names in the food industry providing a broad array of delicious chow without doubt will also be enjoyed by customers

OLAY
OLAY
OLAY
OLAY



Another Landmark Rises

SWATCH
SWATCH
SWA



From page F4

international designer who made this dining corner classy, spacious and consumer-friendly. Its overall look provides a warm ambiance ceaselessly inviting customers who want to get a breather in-between shopping to take time out and join the feast.

Upscale and classy shopping

Exuding the same upscale and classy ambience of the Supermart and the Food Center, the Landmark Department Store occupies three levels at Trinoma. These three floors house the men's, ladies, teens, cosmetics, bazaar, gifts, children's and home items, thus, giving a wide variety of merchandise mix.

At the ground level of the department store is the cosmetics section which offers a complete line of beauty and cosmetic products—from locally manufactured to international well-known brands. Ladies will also have their hands full with a wide selection of shoes and bags at the ladies' section.

And if you believe you're already done with your shopping, there's still the home section at the third level.

Skylights perched at the middle of the ceiling allow natural light to come in at daytime and provides a view of stars during the night.

More brands and items are accommodated at the department store because of its wide space providing customers better deals and great choices.

Exuding the same upscale and classy ambience of the Supermart and the Food Center, the Landmark Department Store occupies three levels at Trinoma

ARROW
USA·1851
Congratulates LANDMARK
TRINOMA

GQ
Congratulates LANDMARK
TRINOMA

Wrangler
wrangler.com
Congratulates LANDMARK
TRINOMA

Australian
Congratulates
LANDMARK
TRINOMA

Conditioning
Nestling
Moulting
LacStress
ecotrition
LANCE
SLIDE & LOCK
WARNING
MADE IN CHINA
LST SUMMIT, INC.
PHOENIX
QUAD-XL
Made in China
20
40

LST Summit Inc.

Congratulates

LANDMARK
TRINOMA